

Delivering the
Right Information
in the Time of the Pandemic



2019/20

FOI Philippines Annual Report



PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PHILIPPINES

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- Policy, Planning, and Supports Division (PPSD)
- Compliance Monitoring Division (CMD)
- Communications and Capacity Development Division (CCDD)
- Strategic Partnership Unit (StratPar)
- FOI Radio Team
- FOI Champion
- FOI Program Director

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Vision

- 1
- To oversee the implementation of all FOI and e-FOI programs for all government agencies in the Executive Branch and monitor compliance;
- 2
- To develop programs and mechanisms to capacitate all government agencies in the Executive Branch, including assisting the Local Government Units (LGUs) in drafting their ordinances in implementing FOI in their respective jurisdictions; and
- 3
- To conduct capacity building programs and information education campaigns.



Core Values



Accountability



Transparency



Good Governance



Citizens Participation

Mission

The FOI Program aims to give every Filipino access to information, official records, public records, and documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data and promote transparency and accountability in the public sector.

Searching for...



Knowledge

Innovation

Transparency

Empowerment

Messages



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest greetings to the Presidential Communications Operations Office and its Freedom of Information - Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) on the publication of the 2020 FOI Annual Report.

I commend the FOI-PMO's indispensable role in rebuilding our people's trust in the government by advancing and implementing programs that promote transparency, honesty and accountability in governance.

I also acknowledge the spirited and dynamic collaboration that the PCOO has fostered with various local government units, which provides for prompt and efficient access to information on this administration's policies and undertakings.

As you recognize individuals, agencies and organizations for their effective adherence to FOI standards, may you also carry out your duties in a more responsive way, especially with the challenges presented to us by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, more than ever, let us work hand in hand to render equitable social services as we pave the way for a more informed and empowered citizenry.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



The fourth year of Freedom of Information (FOI) implementation has brought remarkable achievements in our pursuit of transparency and accountability in the government. The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) had worked hard to fulfill the President's promise of providing our people access to information.

Through FOI-Project Management Office (FOI-PMO), the PCOO, as the lead agency in the implementation of the FOI Program, has been tirelessly doing its job to keep people informed of the plans, targets, and actions that our President has laid out for the nation. We recognize the important role of efficient and broad information dissemination, which the PCOO has delivered to the public through projects, capacity building activities, social media engagements, as well as through agency-produced TV and radio programs.

Our accomplishments for this year would have not been possible without our partners and FOI implementers in the Executive Branch. I sincerely express my gratitude to all FOI Champions, Decision Makers, Receiving Officers, Civil Society Organizations, and government partners who have been the pillars of our efforts in public service delivery, especially, during this time of crisis.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has posed great risks to our countrymen and serious challenges to government operations. However, this crisis also made us realize that information plays a critical role in effective governance and protecting public welfare. Our countrymen, as much as possible and without demand, should be provided with timely and relevant information.

Another vital undertaking, together with the FOI-PMO, is the pushing for the passage into law of the FOI Bill. All the hard work and initiatives that have been put in will be meaningless without an FOI Law. The institutionalization of the FOI Program is crucial, especially, as we near the home stretch of this Administration. I am looking forward to an encompassing FOI mechanism that shall be implemented across all branches of government and down to the Local Government Units.

Our desire for development requires accountability. Thus, it is imperative to elevate public disclosure to a level yet unprecedented. However, this is no one man's job. It requires cooperation and collective action.

I strongly believe that initiatives involving transparency, good governance, and integrity shall shape the future of our country. We, as public servants, must be bold and strive tenfold, so that we may leave noteworthy legacies that will benefit the present and future generations.

JOSE RUPERTO MARTIN M. ANDANAR
Secretary and FOI Champion
Presidential Communications Operations Office



The Freedom of Information - Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) is honored to present our developments in FOI Implementation through this 2020 FOI Philippines Annual Report. This year has marked great strides in pushing for transparency and accountability in the government. This report will demonstrate how we moved beyond the traditional means of conducting stakeholder engagement and promoting FOI across the country.

In March 2020, we witnessed a dramatic turning point in our operations. The pandemic greatly affected our dynamics especially with the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in Metro Manila. Nevertheless, this crisis revealed itself as metamorphic.

The FOI-PMO has been evolving along with the tide of the new normal. Despite the challenges in public service delivery, the team has developed mechanisms to still be able to exercise our functions by converting most of our services online. To continually assist FOI Officers and PBB Focal Persons and keep them updated with the latest updates of the FOI Program, an FOI Online Consultation System (FOCS) was created. We also transitioned our conduct of the FOI Receiving Officer's (FRO) Hangout digitally to continually provide for an avenue for FROs to discuss major accomplishments, challenges, and innovative solutions to further improve the implementation of the FOI program. Moreover, we have conducted virtual FOI Conferences for LGUs to disseminate FOI Program awareness to the Local Chief Executives and encourage them to pass their respective FOI Ordinances.

This year has made us realize the significant value of shared knowledge and responsibility in attaining our desired change. We have a total record of 676 information, education, and communication (IEC) activities organized and participated in. Given the challenging circumstances, the FOI-PMO conducted "In Focus: Capturing Transparency in Budgeting and Public Procurement in the Time of COVID-19," which was a series of webinars focusing on budget transparency and public procurement as a way of building and strengthening public trust and confidence in governance amid the prevailing health crisis. Further, the FOI-PMO constantly develops new training programs particularly designed for our target stakeholders. This includes the FOI Student Ambassadors Camp, which was launched to train and partner with student leaders in advancing FOI in their respective campuses. The Office also offers a CPD-Accredited Webinar for Librarians as part of our ongoing initiatives to expand our reach to academic institutions and information specialists.

To further utilize the FOI Program in promoting government programs and services, the FOI-PMO has ventured on multimedia platforms. Through a Co-Production Agreement with Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) 13, we produce a Public Affairs Television Program entitled, "FY.I." that features government agencies and provides them a platform to raise awareness on their respective mandate and projects. On the other hand, a radio show of the same nature, "FOI sa Radyo" is aired in Radyo Pilipinas 1. Along with these initiatives, an online course on FOI, also known as "Freedom of Information 101" was also developed through a partnership agreement with the Development Academy of the Philippines in response to the rise of online learning. In the third quarter of 2020, we were able to take part in the International Day of Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) by organizing a Virtual Multi-Arts Festival aimed at unleashing the creativity of every Filipino in depicting and advocating the importance of access

to through various forms and means of art while incorporating our unique Filipino identity and culture. FOI Philippines has been employing strong social media engagement strategies to extend our engagement with the online public.

As much as we have been exerting efforts in bringing FOI all over the country in all means possible, policies were made to facilitate efficient FOI implementation. To easily inform citizens of the procedure of requesting government information, we encouraged agencies to produce a printed and digital copy of One-Page FOI Manual for online and onsite distribution, pursuant to FOI-MC No. 1, s. 2020. Like the past years, FOI has earned its spot again in the Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) Requirements in accordance with the FOI-MC No. 2, s. 2020, thus prompting government compliance to the FOI Program.

We are also proud to share that the FOI-PMO has been recognized as an accredited member of International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC), an international forum for information rights across the world. We have successfully complied with the eligibility criteria of protecting, promoting, and ensuring access to public information in the Philippines. The FOI Philippines is the first member of the ICIC among Southeast Asian countries. Along the same vein, we are also delighted to share with you that the FOI Philippines is also a part of the Asia Open Data Partnership (AODP), an international network composed of the government, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and academic institutions actively working on and promoting the development and application of open data in Asia.

On top of it all, the FOI-PMO has been tirelessly fighting for the passage of the FOI Bill. In our aim to achieve accountability across all branches of the government and make information easily accessible to all Filipinos, we call for the support of all agencies, citizens, and non-government partners in lobbying for the passage of the FOI Bill.

Our fourth year of implementation has faced relatively high expectations as we have laid out comprehensive plans and have set numerous projects in light of our Smart Citizen campaign. However, setbacks are effective instruments of redirection and refocus. We are led to effective alternatives in advancing the FOI Program and we have a clearer vision of our purpose: providing truthful and reliable government information for the welfare of the Filipino people.

ATTY. KRISTIAN R. ABLAN
Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director
Presidential Communications Operations Office

Statement

from the FOI Program Director



2016

President Duterte signed Executive Order (EO) No. 2 or the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program



The PCOO launched the FOI program and the electronic FOI (eFOI) portal



The PCOO was designated as the lead agency for the implementation of the FOI Program



2018

The DILG and the PCOO issued Joint Memorandum Circular (MC) 2018-01 encouraging local government units (LGUs) to enact an FOI ordinance



2017

PCOO officially established the Freedom of Information-Project Management Office (FOI-PMO)



Conduct of FOI Campus Caravan

2019

FOI-PMO was accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission as a Continuing Professional Development provider for Licensed Librarians in the Philippines



The FOI-PMO participated in the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in March 2019 and International Exposure Program in the United Kingdom.



Development of the FOI Comprehensive Handbook

In partnership with DBM and DILG, the PCOO through the FOI-PMO participated in the Regional Townhall Meetings called "Dagyaw" which means Bayanihan in Hiligaynon



2020

FOI-PMO was officially recognized by the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) as a newly accredited member.



FOI-PMO gathered 3,549 signatures for the manifesto of support for the passage of FOI Bill



Conduct of Transparency Roadshows

Engaging with the public and promoting citizen's participation through FOI TV and Radio Programs



Conduct of the FOI Student Ambassador's Camp for Student Leaders



2021

Increase awareness and engage communities at the grassroots level by conducting the Barangay Level FOI Campaign



FOI-PMO launched the FOI 101 Online Course with DAP



Equip registered librarians and teachers with the essential knowledge and skills to implement the FOI Program while earning CPD units



2022

The FOI Philippines will leave a legacy of building trust through access to government information



Applied the Right to Information (RTI) Methodology to select National Government Agencies (NGAs) and assisted the Center for Law and Democracy (CLD) Assessment Team in monitoring information requests to target NGAs

The FOI Roadmap



2019/20

FOI Accomplishments Brief Summary

69%

FOI Manuals Compliance

42,086

eFOI Portal Requests Filed

40,386

Standard / Paper-Based
Requests Filed

4,206

FOI Officers Designated
Across Government Agencies

46%

Success Rate in processing
requests in the eFOI portal

490

Government Agencies
onboard the eFOI portal

32

LGUs passed their ordinances
or issued EOs localizing
Access to Information

676

Information, Education, and Communication
(IEC) activities organized and participated in

229,559

Records consolidated from the
Agency Information Inventory

07

Working Days Average
Processing Time



Chapter 1

Establishing the Blueprint of FOI in the Philippines

Inclusion of FOI Program Accomplishments in the President's Report to the People (PRP)

The FOI-PMO provided an update on the status of FOI Program, its significance during the time of pandemic, as well as the milestones achieved during the operationalization of the Program. The submitted report on the FOI Program was included in the President's Report to the People which was released on the day of the State of the Nation Address (SONA).

It has been almost four (4) years since President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued EO No. 2 s. 2016, which allowed the operationalization of the people's right to information in the Executive branch. The PCOO was thereafter designated as the lead agency in the implementation of the FOI Program. The FOI-PMO was subsequently established under the PCOO to monitor compliance and lead the FOI Program including the electronic FOI in the Executive branch. Since then, it has continuously expanded its efforts in fostering a nation of truly engaged and well-informed citizenry by promoting access to information through standard paper-based and electronic platforms.

The FOI Program is one of the commitments of PCOO in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 under Chapter 5: Ensuring People-Centered, Clean, and Efficient Governance, Sub-sector Outcome 4: Citizenry fully-engaged and empowered.

The following are the specific commitments included in the plan:



Submission of FOI Manuals to the Office of the Executive Secretary



Onboarding of National Government Agencies (NGAs) and Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) in the eFOI portal



Completion and publication of Agency Information Inventory

Policies

made relative to the implementation of the FOI Program

01

FOI Memorandum Circular No. 1 S 2020 - Development of One-page FOI Manual

The FOI-MC No. 01, s. 2020 recommends that all agencies under the Executive branch produce an abridged version of the FOI Manual or the One-Page FOI Manual.

02

FOI Memorandum Circular No. 2 S 2020 - FOI Program Criteria and Validation process for the eligibility to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Performance-Based Bonus (PBB)

FOI MC No. 2, s. 2020 provides the guidelines of the FOI Program criteria and validation process for the eligibility for the grant of the Performance-Based Bonus for Fiscal Year 2020 under EO No. 80, s. 2012, and EO No. 201, s. 2016.

03

FOI Memorandum Circular No. 3 S 2020 - Existing Projects and Programs of Agencies covered under Executive Order No. 114, s. 2020 or the "Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa Program "

In line with EO No. 114, s. 2020: Institutionalizing the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program (BP2), the FOI-PMO issued FOI MC No. 3, s. 2020 on 24 July 2020 enjoining all member agencies covered under EO No. 114 to support the BP2 by providing information on their existing projects and programs in the different regions of the Philippines that are focused on addressing concerns of BP2 beneficiaries. All the information gathered shall be collated and shall be included in the creation of the FOI-PMO's "Information Pack" initiative.



04

FOI Memorandum Circular No. 4 S 2020 - 2020 FOI Awards Guidelines and Nomination Form

As part of the annual celebration of the signing of EO No. 2, s. 2016, establishing the FOI Program in the Executive branch, the FOI-PMO will hold its 2020 FOI Awards on 25 November 2020. The event is to recognize the efforts of the top compliant and performing government agencies in the implementation of the FOI Program in the Executive branch, as well as our institutional partners, individuals, and civil society organizations, which helped us achieve our goals in implementing the program especially during this time of crisis.

05

Inter-Agency FOI Exceptions Policy Committee Resolution

In August 2020, the Inter Agency Freedom of Information Exceptions Policy Committee signed Resolution 2019-002 recommending to their respective agencies the appointment of Security Officers who will undergo training with the National Intelligence and Coordinating Agency and/or Armed Forces of the Philippines. The training will primarily deal with the Classification of Government Documents.

International Recognition

FOI Philippines: an accredited member of the ICIC



The FOI-PMO is now an accredited member of the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC), a forum for information rights across the world. The FOI-PMO successfully met the primary eligibility criteria of protecting, promoting, and ensuring the respect of access to public information in the Philippines in its four-year program implementation under the leadership of PCOO Secretary and FOI Champion Jose Ruperto Martin Andanan and Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director Kristian R. Ablan.

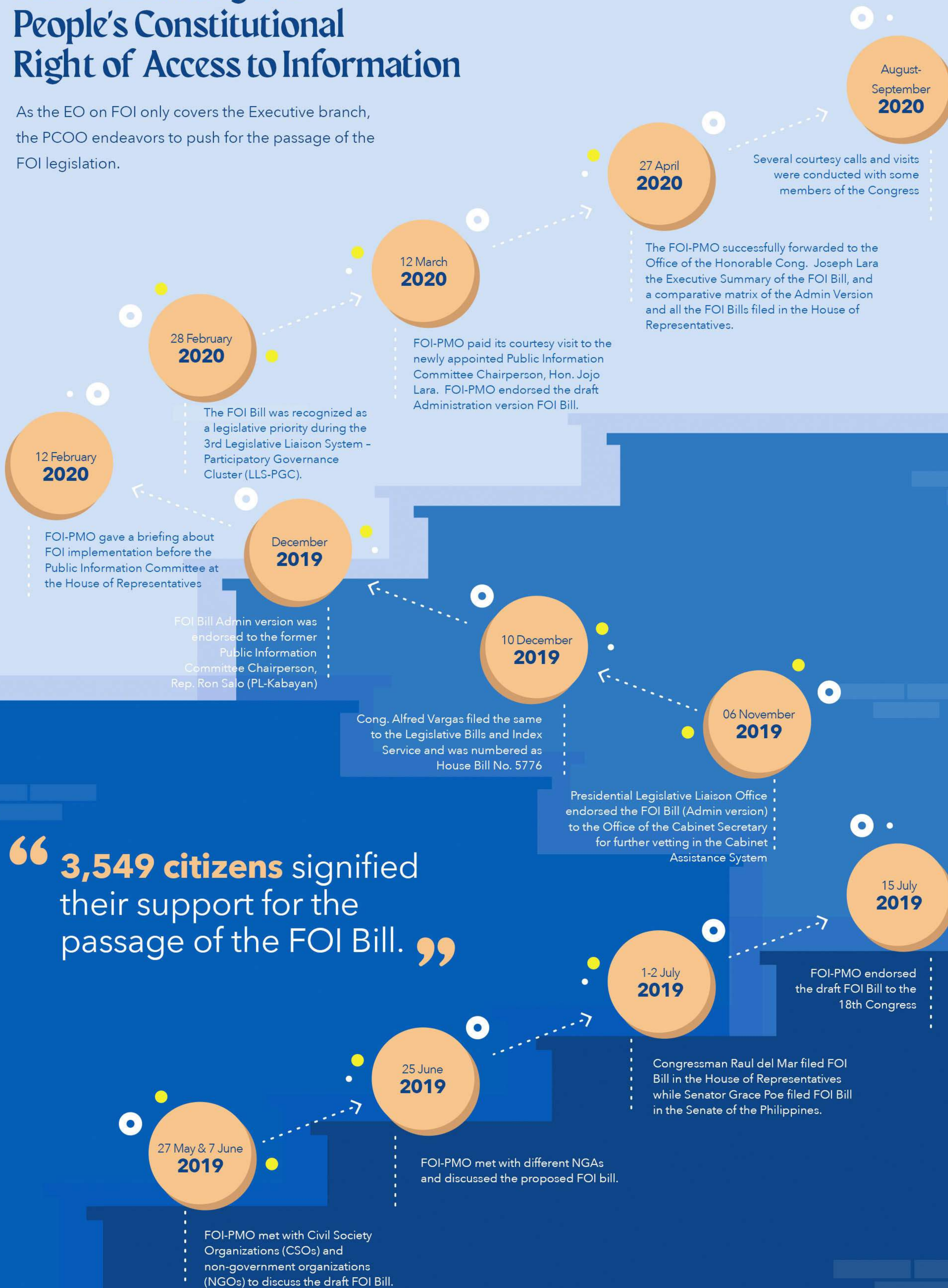
As global progress is becoming collective, the ICIC provides a platform to unite voices from the international community on raising awareness on the impact and effects of access to public information. This great endeavor propels the development and adoption of certain international standards on how to access public information globally, including the establishment of independent information commissions.

Being internationally recognized is another step for the FOI Program to become more than just an EO, another step for our country to be a transparent nation.

Information for the Nation - that is FOI's goal and mission.

An Act Enabling the People's Constitutional Right of Access to Information

As the EO on FOI only covers the Executive branch, the PCOO endeavors to push for the passage of the FOI legislation.



“**3,549 citizens** signified their support for the passage of the FOI Bill.”

Localizing FOI

Based on a thorough review of the top requested information from government agencies since 2017, the PCOO observed that there is a high demand for local, granular information such as Internal Revenue Allotments, Regional Development Plans, and information on the Local Government Support Fund, among others. This supports the presumption that people demand more information at the local level, which has a direct impact on their everyday lives.

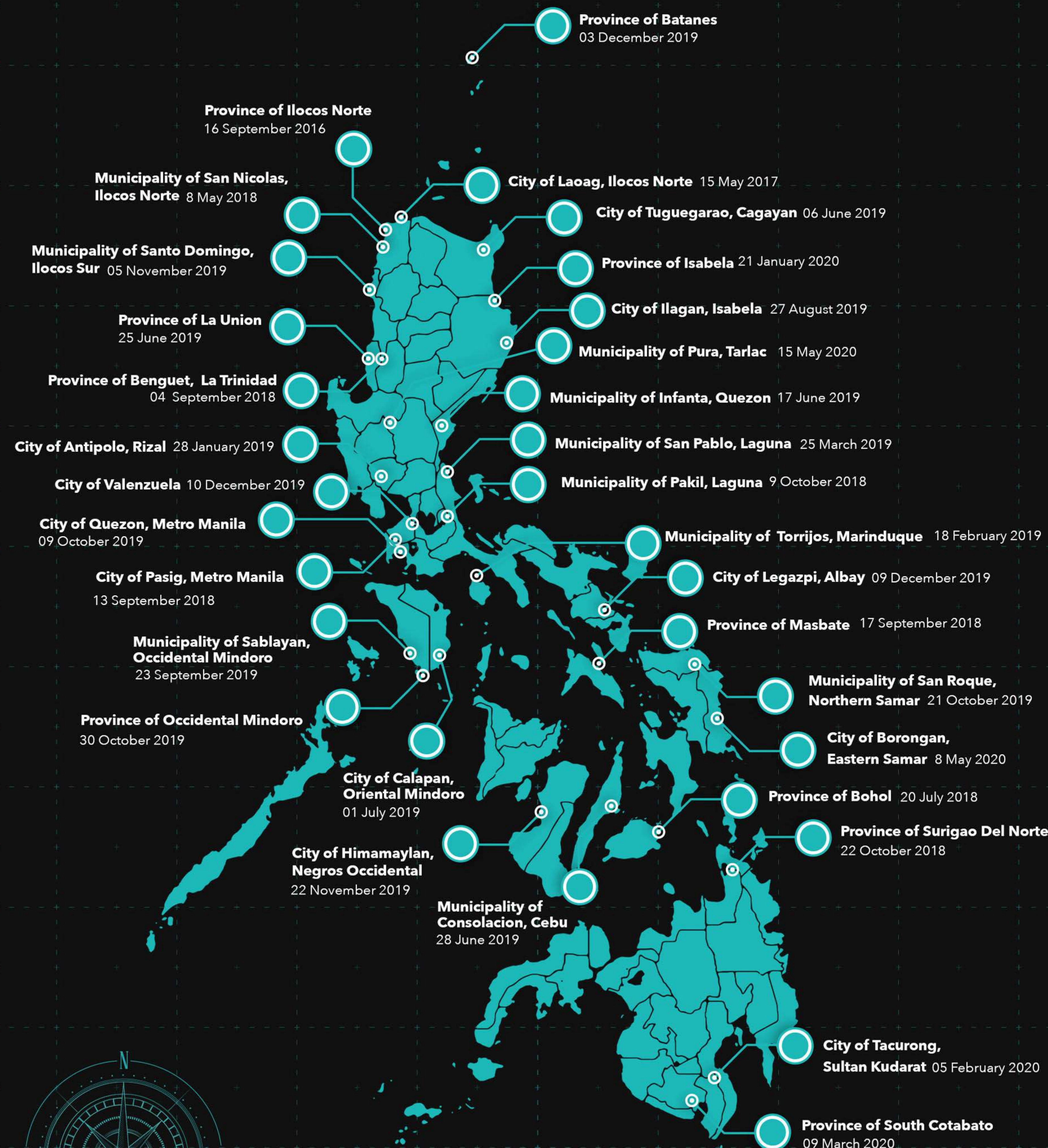
To address this, the PCOO has partnered with the DILG through the issuance of Joint Memorandum Circular 2018-01 also known as the “Reiteration of EO No. 2, s. 2016, Operationalizing the People’s Right to Information and the State Policies of Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service”, which encourages LGUs to pass their own local FOI Ordinances or EOs.



Photo from **City Government of Muntinlupa**

As of this writing, **32 LGUs** had successfully passed their own FOI Ordinances, thereby institutionalizing transparency not only at the Executive branch but also at the subnational level.

Location FOI Local Ordinances



FOI Conference for LGUs

The FOI Conference for LGUs aims to promote awareness on the FOI Program implementation; and encourage LGUs to pass their respective FOI Ordinance to promote transparency, accountability, and localization of the right to access information.

In summary, the following has been accomplished through the conduct of said activity: **160 participants** attended and **64 LGUs** were represented; explained the FOI Program and eFOI platform to the LGUs; and, introduced the FOI - LGU Acceleration Program.

The FOI Conference for LGUs was participated by the Local Chief Executives, and members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, and Sangguniang Bayan.

Luzon

21 February 2020
in Baguio City

Visayas

28 August 2020 via
Zoom Conference



First LGUs to onboard the eFOI portal



City of Antipolo, Region IV-A

The sole component city and capital of the Province of Rizal



City of Pasig, National Capital Region

One of the oldest towns in the Philippines



Municipality of Pakil, Laguna

Provides the Public to Access Information from the Municipality of Pakil, Laguna



City of Legazpi, Region V

The City of Fun and Adventure

FOI Requirements

Government agencies under the Executive branch are required to submit their People's FOI Manuals defining how it will facilitate FOI requests as provided under the EO No. 2, s. 2016. The Manual must be published in print format - to guide ordinary citizens who do not have internet access, and in digital format - for the public who wish to request for information without physically going to government offices.

The following government agencies under the Executive branch have complied with the directives of the EO through the submission of their FOI Manuals:



complied with the validation process



FOI Manuals

Compliance Rate



Nota bene:
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Kidney Transplant Institute (NKT), and Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) are considered as attached offices and hospitals under the DOH and as clarified, should not be treated as a separate agency.

Due to the merging of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) under the new name of Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), the FOI-PMO consolidated them as one (1) NGA.

Due to the merging of the Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) and the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (PHILEXIM) pursuant to EO No. 58, s. 2018, the FOI-PMO consolidated them as one (1) GOCC.

FY 2019 Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) Compliance

Through the initiative of the DBM and the PCOO, the FOI Program requirements (i.e. posting of agency FOI manual, FOI Reports, and FOI logo in the agency's website) have been included as a criteria under the Other Cross-Cutting Requirements category for eligibility to grant PBB for FY 2019 Performance Targets.



(Number of agencies complied with FOI-PMO's validation process)

FY 2020 PBB Guidelines

Thereafter, in May 2020, the FOI-PMO proposed and submitted an enhanced FOI Program requirements to the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of National Government Monitoring, Information and Reporting Systems (AO No. 25, s. 2011) for inclusion in the FY 2020 PBB Guidelines. And in May 2020, the proposed enhanced FOI Program requirements, including the Modified One-Page FOI Manual was considered in the draft FY 2020 PBB Guidelines.



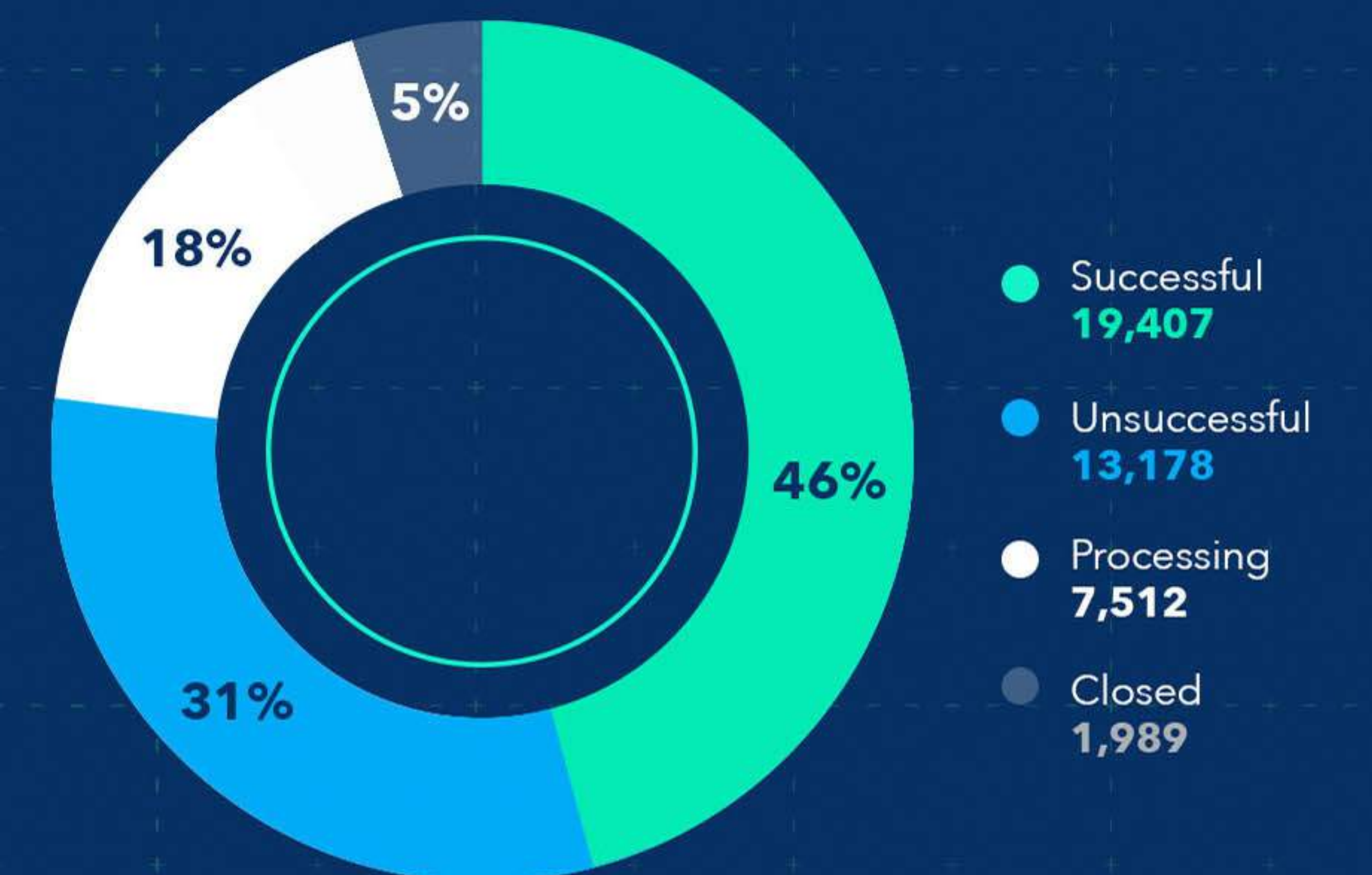
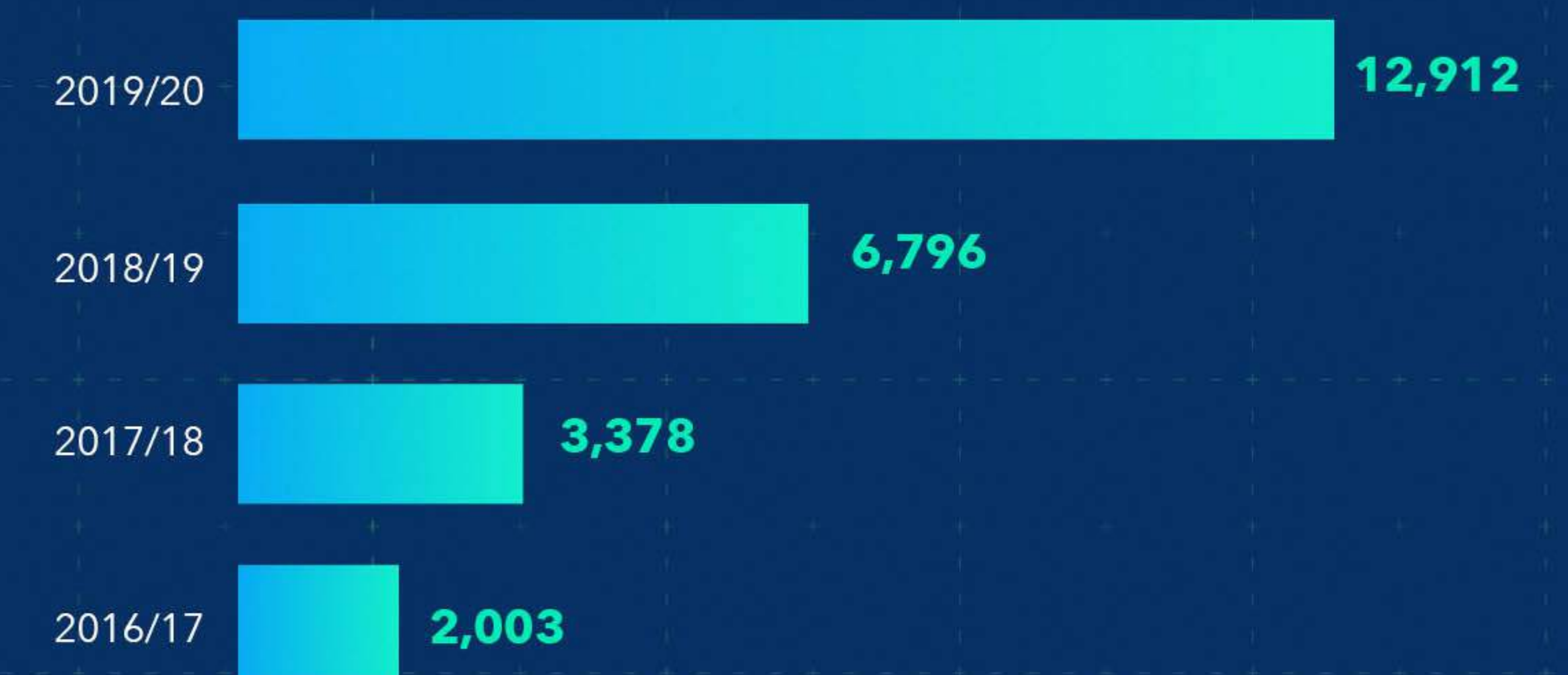
Chapter **2**The eFOI Portal:
Information delivered to you

Consistent with the Duterte administration's vision of
"a comfortable life for all",

the FOI Program not only aims to increase access to information, but also revolutionize how the government discloses information to the public. Through the electronic FOI (eFOI) Portal (www.foi.gov.ph), an online platform where citizens can request for data and information--access to information is now at their disposal making the process easier and more convenient.

In **four (4) years of implementation**, there is a substantial increase in the supply of and demand for government information which can be seen in the following:

Status of Requests

Number of
Onboarded AgenciesNumber of
eFOI Portal Users

Cataleya Amaya recommends FOI Philippines.
January 28 · 🌐

it is a very useful site..it promotes awareness, community-oriented and patriotic citizens



Vincent Venapen Bitaga Valenzuela recommends FOI Philippines.
March 18 · 🌐

Very useful and valuable!



Magilas Salvacion recommends FOI Philippines.
January 28 · 🌐

freedom of information is a right under the law. this page is a useful site for any inquiries about our government

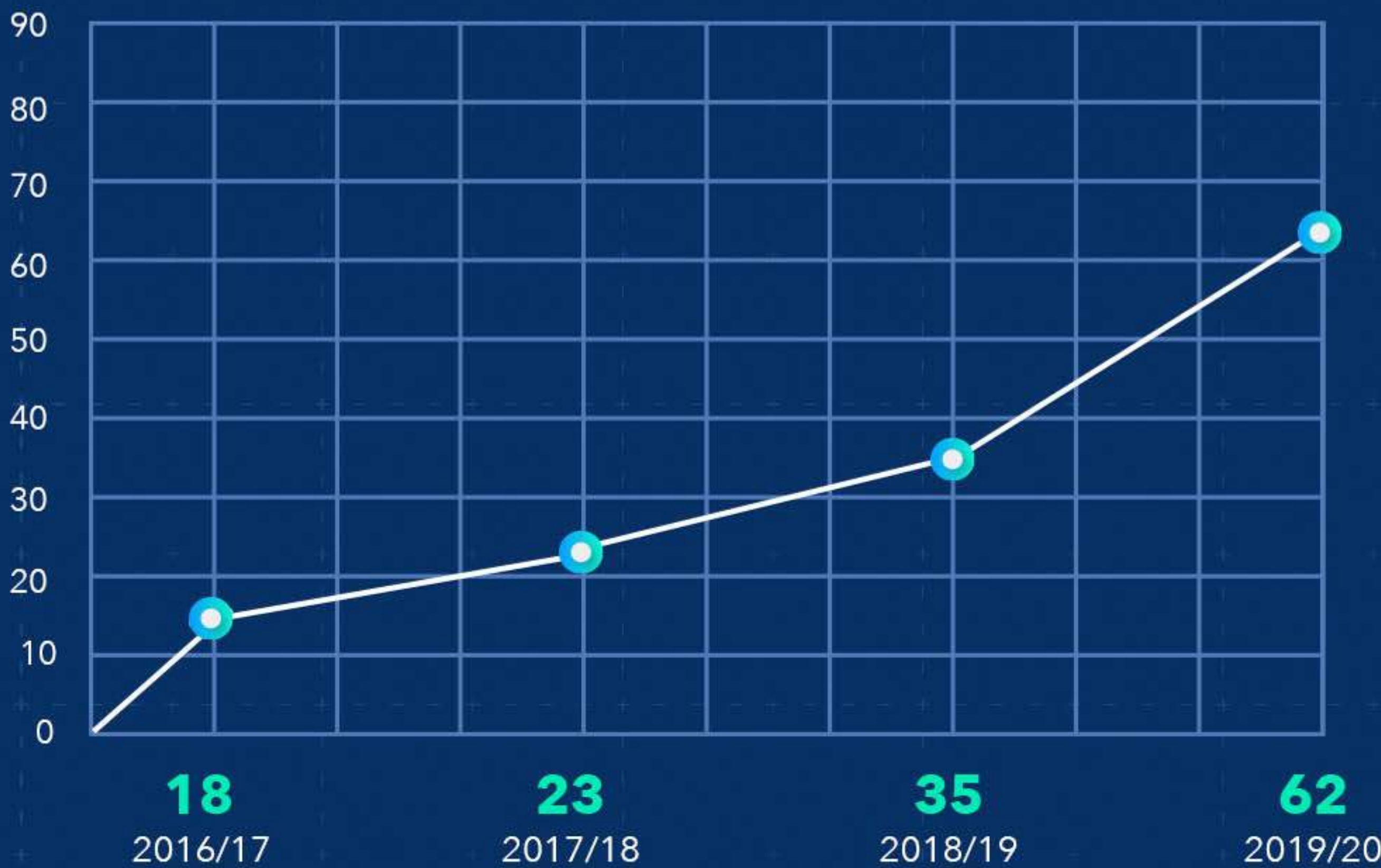
Top Requested Government Agencies
in the eFOI Portal | 2016-2020



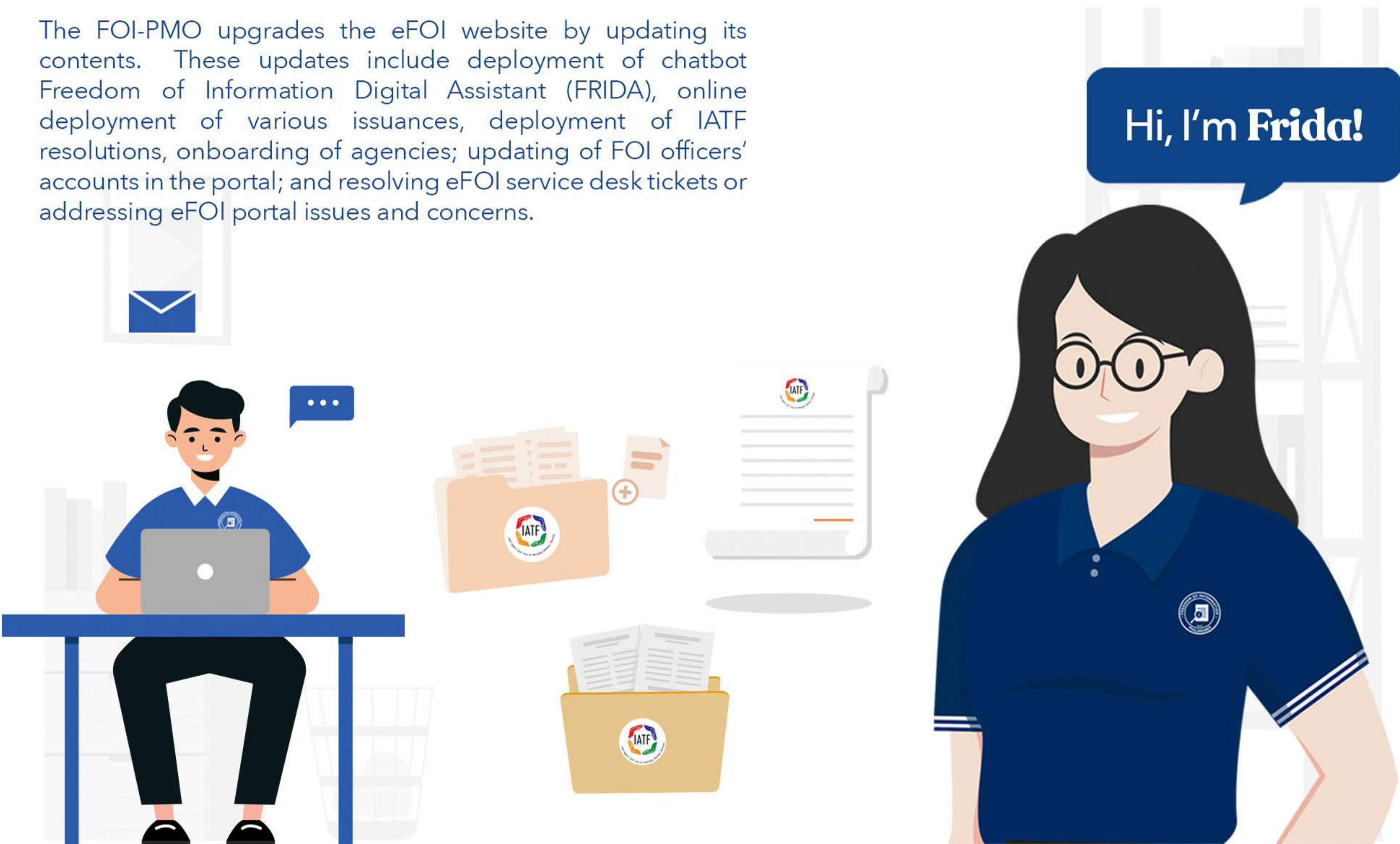
Summary of Request for Information



Average Number of Requests per Agency



The FOI-PMO upgrades the eFOI website by updating its contents. These updates include deployment of chatbot Freedom of Information Digital Assistant (FRIDA), online deployment of various issuances, deployment of IATF resolutions, onboarding of agencies; updating of FOI officers' accounts in the portal; and resolving eFOI service desk tickets or addressing eFOI portal issues and concerns.



Home

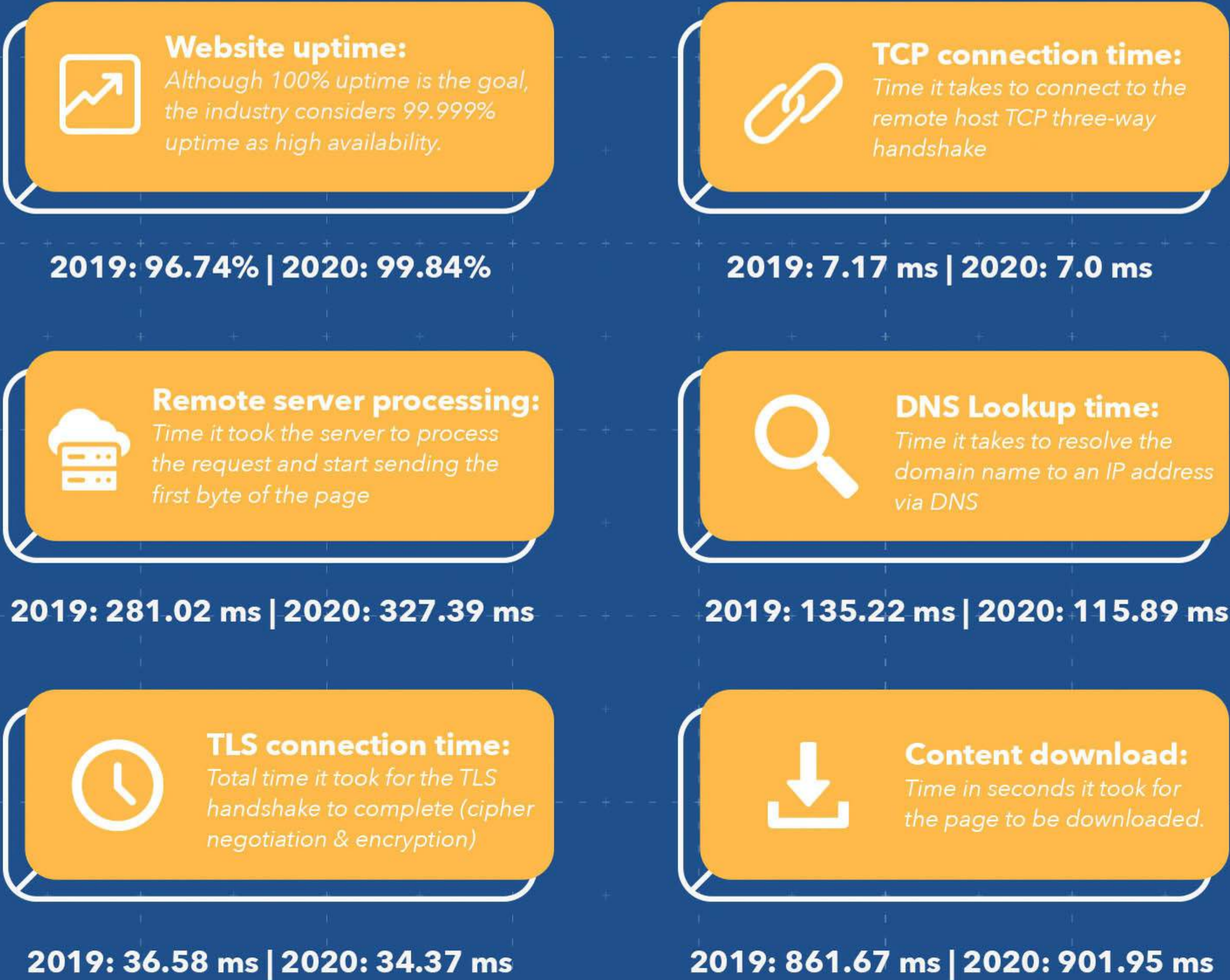
Browse Request

View Agencies

FAQs

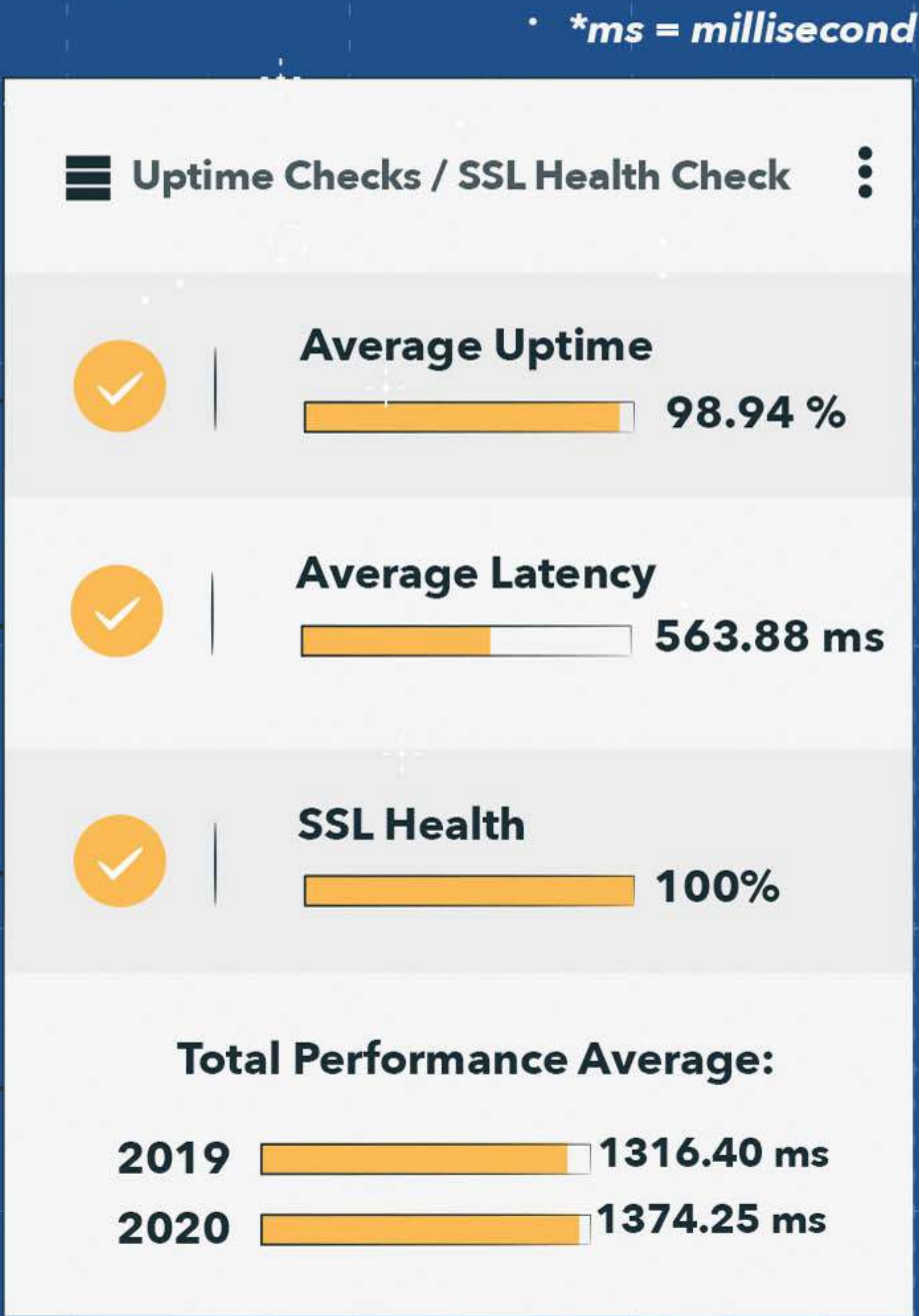
Technical Performance of the eFOI portal

(For 2019, as of December. For 2020, as of 30 September 2020.)



Ask away!

Request for Information



Chapter **3****Engaging the Public:
Promoting participatory
and inclusive governance****Information, Engagement,
and Communications**

The FOI Program provides free service, accessible through the eFOI Portal at www.foi.gov.ph, and posts daily updates on its official FOI Facebook page. Its projects include: FOI Compliance Consultation and Workshop, FOI Online Consultation System, FOI Receiving Officers' Hangout, Training of Trainers for different sectors, FOI Technical Training Program for SUCs, LWDs, and LGUs, 2019 FOI Summit and Awards, Transparency Caravans, FOI Student Ambassadors Camp, FOI Workshop for Librarians, FOI Campus Caravan, Press Freedom Caravan, and more.



F.Y.I.

with Asec. Kris Ablan

The FOI's TV show entitled For Your Information (F.Y.I.) is a public service television program to keep the public on the loop with the latest projects, policies, and programs of the government.

FYI airs every Sunday at IBC-13, 8:30pm to 9:00pm.

FYI Official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FYIPHOOfficial/

“ Yung F.Y.I. po ang TV Program na para sa masa po talaga. Maraming salamat po at finally may TV program na nagiinform sa mga Pilipino, katulad ko, ng mga serbisyo ng gobyerno na madalas ay hindi naipapaalam. ”

-Mary Rose Bacera-Geronimo
Respondent, Episode 8

On 2 July 2020, through FOI-PMO, the PCOO and IBC-13 signed a Co-Production Agreement media collaboration and brand integration to effectively promote Filipino citizens' right to access information through F.Y.I television program.



01 | Department of Education



02 | Overseas Workers Welfare Administration



03 | Department of Science and Technology
-Science and Technology Information Institute



04 | Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute



05 | Department of Trade and Industry



06 | Department of Labor and Employment



07 | National Mapping and Resource Information Authority



08 | Commission on Higher Education



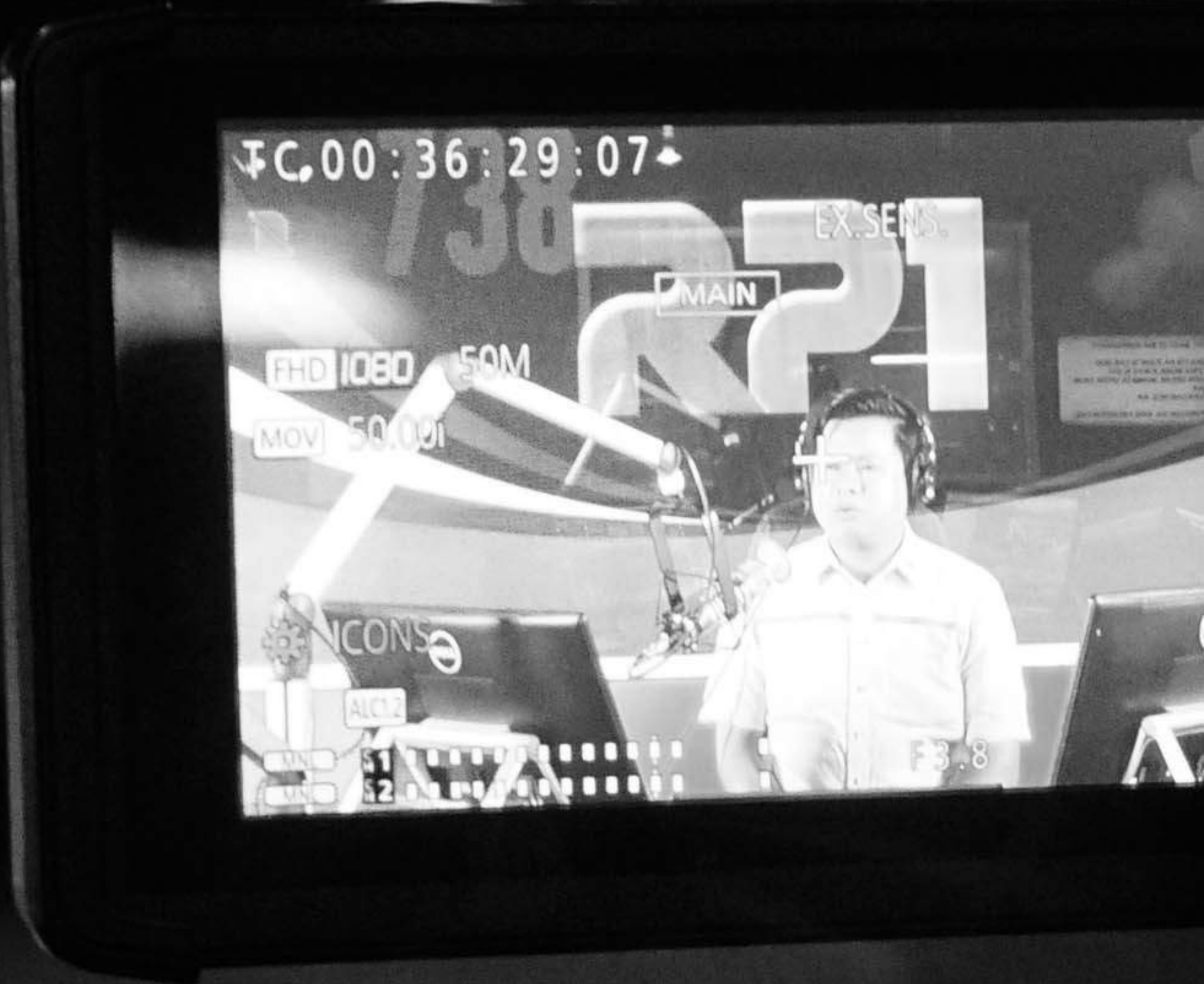
09 | Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution

SA RADYO

To further reach more Filipinos in the countryside, FOI-PMO launched “FOI sa Radyo” which covers the various government efforts in transparency, promotes programs and other initiatives of all government offices especially in this time of pandemic.

The FOI sa Radyo airs every Friday, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM over the government's flagship radio station Radyo Pilipinas 1 and streamed live via Facebook.

“ More than 82,000 views from the live streamed episodes of FOI sa Radyo ”



Episode	Date	Guest Agency	Guest Co-Host
1	14 August 2020	Presidential Communications Operations Office	Rheanne Pascua
2	21 August 2020	National Privacy Commission	Krizia Casey Avejar
3	28 August 2020	Department of Interior and Local Government City Government of Pasig	Ma. Krishannah Arnidoval
4	04 September 2020	Department of Transportation Metropolitan Manila Development Authority	Danica Orcullo
5	11 September 2020	Department of Health	Eden Mendoza
6	18 September 2020	Department of Education Commission on Higher Education	Kristian Veil Nierves
7	25 September 2020	Securities and Exchange Commission	Atty. Tristan De Guzman



Network Briefing News

Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director Kris Ablan provides the latest updates about the implementation of the FOI program through the Network Briefing News (NBN). This radio program bridges LGUs across the country with the national government through live interviews to discuss issues and concerns related to COVID-19 response. Hosted by PCOO Secretary Martin Andanar with local media representatives from featured LGUs, this program is organized by the Philippine Information Agency and produced by the Philippine Broadcasting Service.

The NBN airs over the government's flagship radio station Radyo Pilipinas 1 every Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM, with simulcast on all digital platforms of PCOO and delayed telecast on PTV 4 and IBC-13.

CABINET REPORT TELERADYO

A news and public affairs radio program hosted by PCOO Secretary Martin Andanar, Assistant Secretary Kris Ablan, and Assistant Secretary JV Arcena, aims to inform the public regarding the projects and initiatives of the government for increased transparency and civic engagement. The program hosts also interview other government officials from different agencies to clarify issues relating to public concerns.

Cabinet Report sa Teleradyo is being aired every Friday from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in Radyo Pilipinas 738 kHz.



FOI's TV AND RADIO ENGAGEMENT

The Freedom of Information has appeared and has been featured in different television and radio programs this year. PCOO Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director has been invited as guest and resource speaker in various public affairs programs nationwide.

These media engagements provided an opportunity to showcase FOI program's accomplishments to a wider audience, and clarify issues surrounding the implementation of the program.

RADIO GUESTINGS

RMN Zamboanga with Bhong Simbajon
May 13, 2020

DZJV 1458 Radyo Calabarzon Diskarte with Daniel Castro
May 12, 2020

DWZR Radio Legazpi with Erasto "Bing" Alerta
June 3, 2020

Cebu Catholic Television Network International, Inc. CCTN 47 with Junino Padilla
May 16, 2020

TV GUESTINGS

ABS-CBN - Failon Ngayon with Ted Failon
January 5, 2020

One Media Company Inc. - Face the Nation with Howell Mabalot and Lorlyn Garcia-Velarde
July 18, 2020

One News - The Chiefs with Luchi Cruz-Valdez, Ed Lingao, Roby Alampay, and Amy Pamintuan
September 16, 2020



Television

The FOI-PMO has partnered with different TV stations to air two (2) FOI audio-visual materials. Among the TV stations that have aired the materials without cost to the government were ABS-CBN, GMA, TV5, and PTV4.

Out-of-Home Advertising

The FOI-PMO has partnered with different national government agencies with unique media touchpoints and assets to air / play our FOI audio-visual materials. These were the National Printing Office (EDSA Billboard), Philippine Ports Authority (Regional and Provincial Ports), Manila International Airport Administration (Airports); Department of Transportation and Light Rail Transit Authority (Railways).

Airports and Cable Ads

The FOI-PMO tapped a third party service provider, Island Living Channel, to air our FOI-related materials in their regional cable channel, and selected airports and seaports in three (3) major island clusters. From Batanes to Tawi-tawi, the materials were being aired on a daily basis during the duration of the contract.

Information and Communication Materials

The FOI-PMO has produced various IEC materials such as posters on FOI process, briefers on EO2, pamphlets, comics, and annual report. Some of which were translated in different local / regional languages. All IEC materials were also uploaded in the eFOI portal for easy access.

ISLAND LIVING
CHANNEL

Data Stories

The FOI PMO recognizes the importance of translating data into story and visualization so that it can be easily understood by the public and key stakeholders of the program.

1

This is an important reminder from the National Telecommunications Commission with regards to lost or stolen mobile phones. The said public service announcement is based on the requests for information lodged through the NTC under the eFOI portal.



2

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) oversees the welfare of our compatriots working abroad. For services and other information, just call the OWWA 24/7 Hotline!



3

The Department of Agriculture showed the top 5 Countries with most volume of banana exports as of 2017 with the Republic of Ecuador (6,587,037 Metric Tons) as the lead exporter then followed by the Republic of the Philippines.








Google Ads. FOI Google Ads was successfully deployed on 18 June 2020. FOI-PMO coordinated with PCOO and BCS on PCOO's Google Ads Initiative and also provided a list of keywords and ad groups for the eFOI campaign. Now, with search network campaign type of google ads, eFOI or FOI can show on Google Search results pages when someone searches for FOI or similar keywords.

Social Media Engagement

The FOI Philippines has been active in social media engagement to promote the FOI program and engage with the public.

Through our different social media postings, boosts, promotions, and updates, the FOI Facebook page has reached:

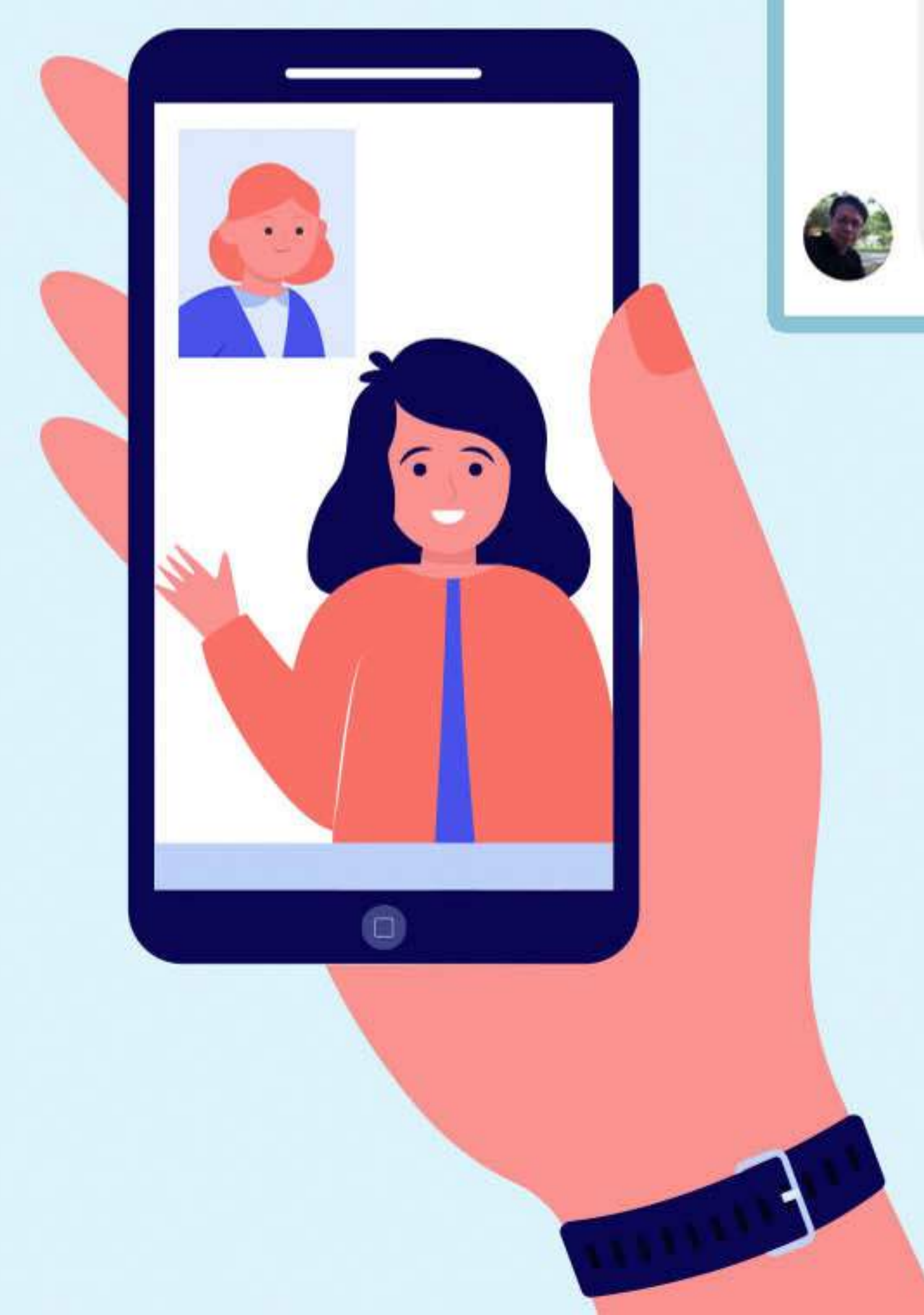
-  **63,164 followers**
-  **61,751 likers**
-  **98% response rate**

The page's monthly response rate is at and maintains its **"Very Responsive"** badge.



FOI's Twitter account has gained:

-  **33 new followers**
-  **280 visits**
-  **13 mentions**
-  **28.3k tweet impressions**



Of course! Thank you so much sa response ah. I never thought na nakakareceived agad ako ng response from you. Have a safe and wonderful day

That was a quick response considering that this is outside office hours. Thank you very much for making our government responsive to the needs of its people

Mabuhay po kayo!

About this year's **FOI Annual Report**

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Philippines Report is an annual and open-access report. It is the official publication of the FOI-Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) under the Presidential Communications Operations Office, Malacañang, Manila.

The FOI Philippines Report is dedicated to discuss the notable achievements with its vision to cultivate an informed and empowered citizenry through continuously promoting awareness-raising, capacity building, and knowledge sharing on the FOI Program to its stakeholder.



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Learning despite the challenges: FOI's comprehensive approach to capacity development

To further widen the reach of the Program, a total of **676** **information, education, and communication activities** had been organized and participated in by the FOI-PMO. These include media engagements, major events, orientation sessions, technical workshops, collaborative meetings, consultations and fora, press freedom caravan activities, and international events.

“ This FOI Ambassador's Camp has got to be one of the best experiences so far this year.

I had the opportunity to meet terrific student leaders and student journalists all over Luzon. Being around such remarkable people backed up by the PCOO-FOI Team with their excellent and informative keynote speakers, it made me realize the important essence of factual information, proper communication, and effective leadership. ”

Jed Tristan V. Quinto

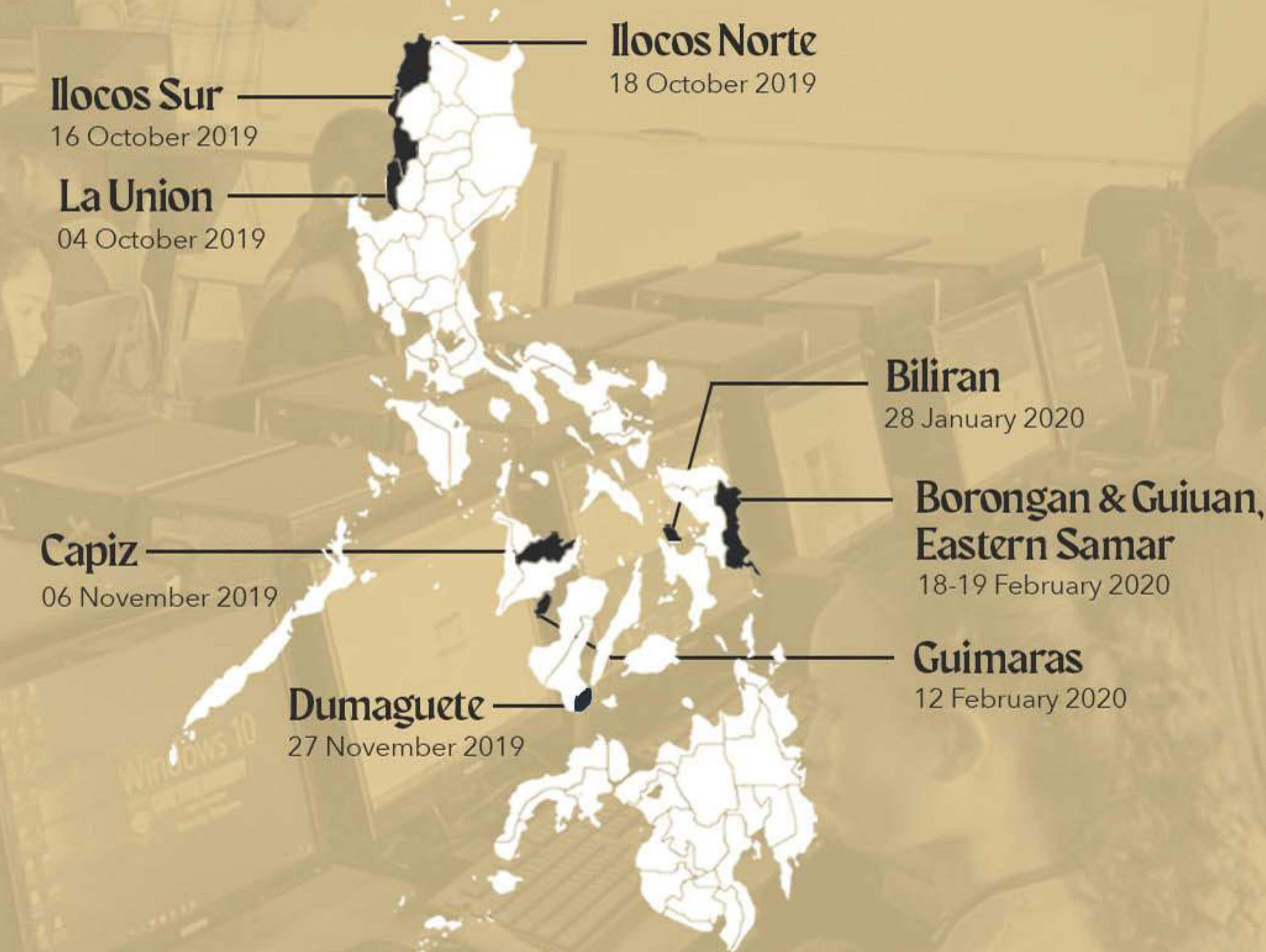
University of Northern Philippines

The FOI CAMPUS CARAVAN

Be informed. Be engaged. Know your government better.

As part of the Multi-Sectoral Roadshows, the FOI-PMO holds FOI Campus Caravan to educate students and members of the academe on their right to information and promote the use of the FOI Program as a tool for academic research. Each campus caravan event was attended by at least 500 students and faculty members from state schools, universities, and colleges.

A total of nine (9) FOI Campus Caravans were conducted in 2019 at the following campuses:



The FOI-PMO launched the FOI Student Ambassadors' Camp (Luzon Leg) on March 3-5, 2020. Attended by 90 student leaders from 44 participating State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in Luzon, the FOI Student Ambassadors' Camp aims to develop a committed partnership with the SUCs and build a strong stakeholder relationship with the students. Moreover, the activity aims to capacitate FOI Student Ambassadors (together with their Deputy Ambassadors) on the fundamentals of the FOI Program, and train them on effective dissemination and implementation of the program

in their respective campuses through leadership and communications training. The PCOO Secretary and FOI Champion Martin Andanar, in his keynote speech during the said event, stressed the important role of the youth sector in sustaining the FOI initiatives. Fostering a collaborative spirit among them is vital in creating social change.

FOI Compliance Consultation and Workshop for SUCs and LWDs

In November 2019, the FOI-PMO conducted four (4) batches of FOI Compliance Consultation and Workshop in Luzon and Mindanao. The consultation-workshop capacitated the FOI Officers in handling FOI requests in standard paper-based and electronic portal. It also provided the PBB Focal Persons guidance on their compliance to the set of requirements of PBB FY 2019.

11 and 12 November 2020:
Cagayan De Oro

18 and 19 November 2020:
Baguio City

Freedom of Information



Consultation and Workshop
for SUCs and LWDs



FOI Online Consultation System (FOCS) for FOI Officers and PBB Focal Persons

Despite of circumstances brought by Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the FOI-PMO ought to recognize and adapt the new normal arrangement, as many activities and engagements including the conduct of face-to-face training-orientations for stakeholders have been cancelled to mitigate the spread of the said disease.

To fulfill its mandate, the FOI-PMO facilitated an FOI Online Consultation System (FOCS) for FOI Officers and PBB Focal Persons using video conference facility to continuously train and capacitate them on the provisions set forth by the EO No. 2, s. 2016 and the requirements of PBB FY 2020.

DOH - 8 June 2020
MWSS - RO - 23 June 2020
PSA R6 - 28 July 2020
FDCP - 18 Aug 2020
PNP - 28 Sept 2020
NEA - 30 Sept 2020



FOI Technical Training Program for NGAs, GOCCs, SUCs, LWDs, and LGUs

The training programs covered a broad discussion on the procedures, policies, and requirements for FOI Program implementation. The training was aimed to capacitate FOI Officers of Implementing Agencies on the process, system, and technical operation of the eFOI Portal. The FOI-PMO have conducted training programs for the following agencies:

Agency/Institution

1. West Visayas State University (WVSU)
2. DOST - Central Office
3. DOST-TAPI
4. National Book Development Board (NBDB)
5. Sulu State University (SSU) And
6. Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)
7. National Irrigation Administration-Pangasinan
8. Bureau of Internal Revenue

2020 FRO

FOI Receiving Officers'
Hangout | Via Online Conferencing

The FOI-PMO recognizes the valuable role of FOI Receiving Officers (FROs) as the front-liners in ensuring the success of FOI Program implementation. This 2020, the FOI-PMO conducted 2020 FROs' Hangout to convene agency FROs to discuss and provide feedback on FOI implementation.

A total of **165 NGAs and GOCCs** attended the 2020 FROs' Hangout.

“ I like the fact the Focus Group Discussion (World Cafe) was conducted to address all concerns immediately. We were able to share our learnings and best practices. ”

- Participant
1st 2020 FROs' Hangout

01 October 2019
Marcian Business Hotel, Zamboanga City

18 October 2019
Cocoon Hotel, Quezon City

22 October 2019
Berjaya Hotel, Makati City

25 September 2020
Online via Zoom

To ensure the most effective and efficient dissemination of the program to the broader community, the PCOO recognizes the significant role of key partner agencies and organizations in capacitating individuals and development stakeholder organizations in performing their roles and mandates, especially within the public sector.

The two-day training is divided into skills development sessions on how to become an effective FOI Ambassador. Methodology consists of lectures, structured-learning experience, interactive sessions, and small group workshops to ensure active involvement of the participants.

1. **2-3 October 2019**
Civil Society Organizations
Zamboanga City
2. **19-20 October 2019**
FOI Youth Initiative
Cocoon Hotel, Quezon City
3. **22-24 October 2019**
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Berjaya Hotel, Makati City
4. **29-29 October 2019**
National Government Agencies
Bayleaf, Intramuros

FOI

TRAINING OF
TRAINERS



2020 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION Webinar for Librarians

As part of its ongoing initiatives, the FOI-PMO is expanding its reach to academic institutions and information specialists. The Office recognizes the significant role of our librarians in strengthening the effective implementation and utilization of the FOI Program, as they portray an essential function in providing public access to information.

The FOI Program Workshop for Librarians aims to encourage learners and teachers to ask the government conveniently in their school libraries about the Executive Branch of the Philippine Government. The Program also aims to introduce a technologically advanced way of asking through the electronic FOI Program or by accessing <https://www.foi.gov.ph/>.

With the FOI Program Workshop, the registered librarians will be trained to independently guide all students and teachers if there will be questions asked regarding the FOI Program in the libraries.

The PCOO will use public libraries and school libraries to cater to the needs of learners and teachers in their research and thesis-making. Utilizing the FOI program will help the learners as well as teachers; especially so, if government information would form part of their research and thesis-making.

A series of FOI Program Workshop for Librarians (11 October 2019, 5 February 2020 and 11 September 2020) was conducted in 2019/20.

Davao

11 October 2019

Manila

05 February 2020

Via Zoom

11 September 2020



“The presenter did very well explaining the FOI and the limitations /exceptions from the FOI because as of now it is only an Executive Order and not an approved law.”

“I hope that students will be introduced to this as well.”

“More webinar like this is great, it gives a lot of information to everyone.”

- Participants

2020 FOI Workshop for Librarians

The PCOO, as the lead communications arm of the government, is spearheading the 2020 Transparency Caravan as part of its Information, Education, and Communications (IEC) Campaign. The 2020 Transparency Caravan aims to achieve the following objectives:

Increase media and information literacy to promote responsible handling and sharing of information and end the proliferation of fake news;

Raise civic awareness on transparency and accountability in governance through the FOI Program and other transparency initiatives of the government such as the DILG's DevLive, and Department of Budget and Management's Project DIME; and

Partner with educational institutions to include the FOI Program in their curricula and promote FOI as an academic tool for research.

A total of **nine (9) Transparency Caravans** were conducted in 2019-2020.



The PCOO launched the Duterte Legacy campaign in PICC last 17 January 2020. It showcases the real stories of the various beneficiaries of the administration's landmark policies and programs from different sectors, including local communities, grassroots leaders, families and laborers, among others. Asec. Kristian Ablan discussed the FOI Program, alongside a documentary that narrates a testimonial from the beneficiary of the Program.



Scan to watch our
Success Story Entry



2019 FOI Summit & Awards

Making Waves as the Cornerstone of Democracy

The 2019 FOI Summit was conducted to commemorate its three (3) fruitful years of championing transparency and accountability, promoting good governance, and empowering Filipino citizens through access to information, on 11 December 2020.

Further, the 2019 FOI Awards was held to recognize and award Government Agencies and Organizations who have made significant contributions to the development and progress of the FOI Program in the Executive branch on 12 December 2020.



For the top department nominees in 2019, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) was awarded as the department champion, followed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as the first runner-up and the Department of Energy (DOE) as the second runner-up.



The Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST) was recognized as the FOI champion for SUCs, with Kalinga State University and Cebu Normal University coming in as first and second runner-up, respectively.



The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) bagged the champion award for government agencies, with the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) as the first runner-up and the Design Center of the Philippines as second runner-up.



Government offices and non-government organizations together with their personnel were also given plaques of appreciation to recognize their contributions in promoting FOI within their scope and line of work.



IDUAI Multi-Arts Festival 2020

This 2020 marks the fifth year of the declaration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

For this year's celebration, the FOI-PMO conducted its 2nd Annual FOI-Multi-arts Festival adopting this year's IDUAI theme,

Access to Information: Saving Lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope

Contests include essay-writing, poster-making, FOI Comics, Photography, and Jingle-making; all of which highlights the importance of Freedom of Information / Access to Information. FOI-PMO seeks to unleash the creativity of Filipinos in depicting and advocating the importance of access to information in nation-building through various forms and means of art such as literary work, poetry, photo, and film incorporating our unique Filipino identity and culture.

Comics Contest Champion: Sygiel Va-ay



Poster Making Champion: John Eliakim Azor V. Custodio

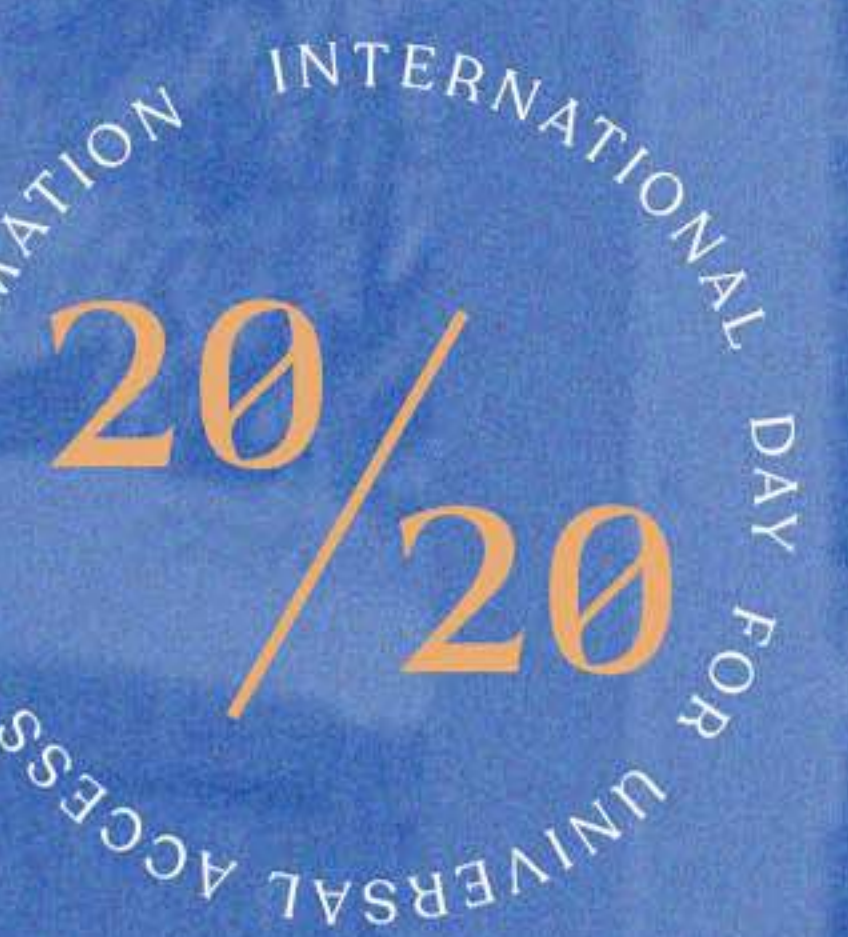


Photography Contest Champion: Kleinne Eco



Essay Writing Champion: Raheemah Hafsa Pangarungan

"Suwara" accounts the authors experiences as an IDP brought by the Marawi siege few years back. She believes that "Freedom of Information thrives to be the best step to building that trust, to reliving the democracy."



Scan to view the
Jingle-Making Contest Entries

Chapter **4****Right to Information
in time of COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic may have upended normal government operations, but our commitment and dedication in our mandate as lead implementers of the FOI Program remain strong and intact especially during these challenging times.

Over the course of the Community Quarantine period, the eFOI portal received a total of

13,405 information requests
of which in spite of FOI request suspension



41% of requests emerged successfully, **31%** were accepted, and **28%** of requests were denied either due to data privacy concerns or the information requested is not considered as an FOI request.

Top 5 most requested
information
about COVID-19

-  List of Social Amelioration Program (SAP) Beneficiaries
-  Cash Aid Programs
-  Status of Calamity Loan Applications
-  Financial Assistance
-  Breakdown of COVID-19 cases

Webinar Series - Transparency Initiatives

In partnership with



As we fully acknowledge the importance and relevance of transparency now more than ever, the FOI-PMO carried out a webinar series entitled, "In Focus: Capturing Transparency in Budgeting and Public Procurement in the Time of COVID-19" from which representatives from the Government Procurement Policy Board - Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), civil society organizations as well as LGUs, were invited to discuss the parallel efforts of the government (national and local) and the civil society in ensuring transparency and accountability in the response and recovery efforts against COVID-19.

The FOI-PMO values the importance of accurate and timely information dissemination particularly in these challenging times. Thus, the following activities were carried out to continue providing transparency and access to information:

In Focus:
Capturing Transparency in Budgeting and Public Procurement in the Time of COVID-19

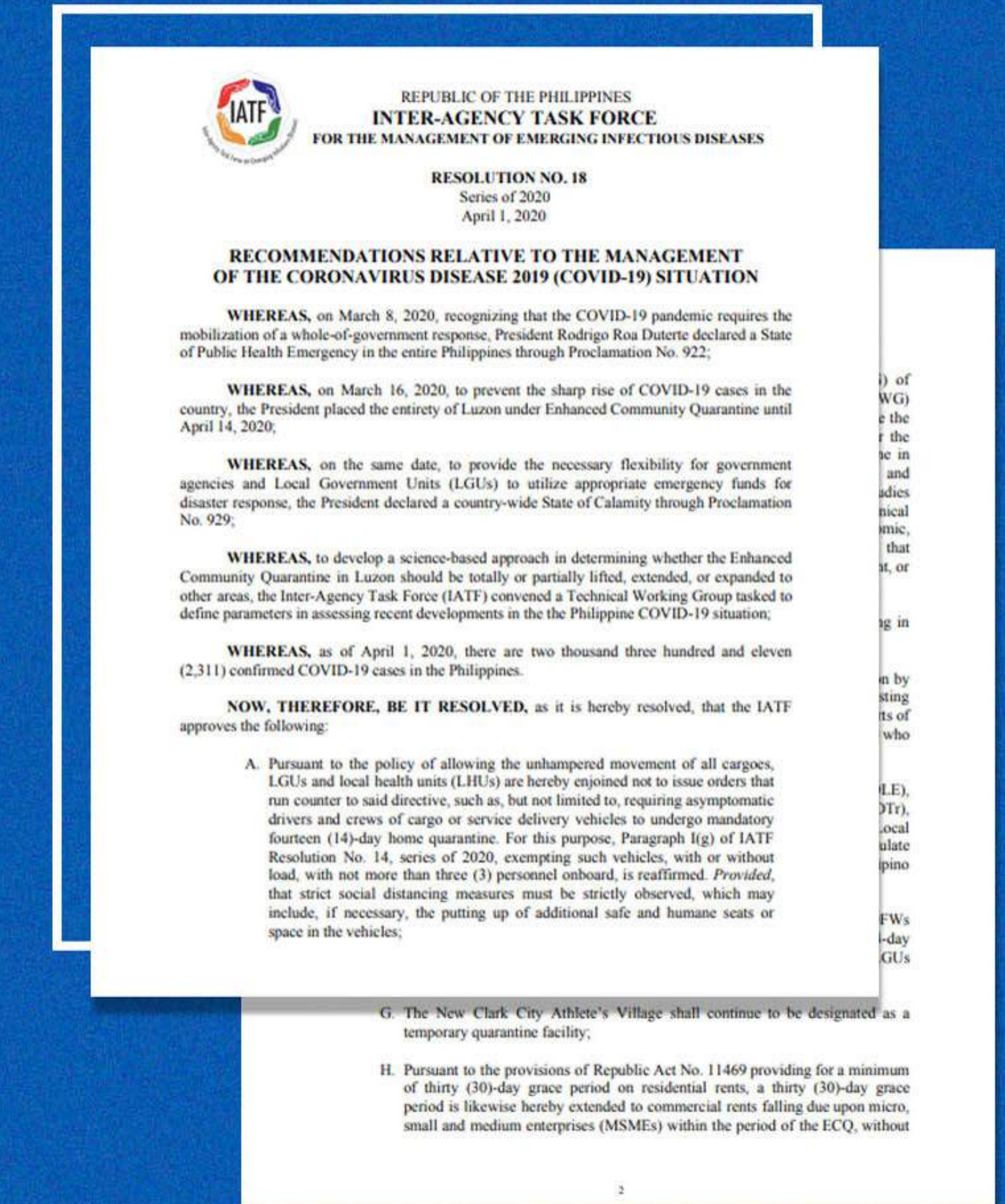
SESSIONS:

- 27 May 2020** Procurement in the Time of COVID-19
- 11 June 2020** COVID-19 and Its Impact on the Procurement Process
- 16 June 2020** Best Budgeting and Procurement Practices at the Local Level
- 25 June 2020** On Keeping the Receipts: Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Initiatives in Response to COVID-19



COVID19 Social Media Management- Reposting of all COVID-19 related activities

As part of PCOO's information dissemination strategy during the pandemic, the FOI Philippines reposted COVID-19 related news, updates, and announcements from the different agencies and organizations such as DOH, DILG, IATF, PCOO, and Laging Handa PH, and responded to all COVID-19 queries and messages, and referred them to relevant agencies.



FOI Advisories

In view of the imposition of community quarantine, the FOI-PMO issued several FOI Advisories. Advisory No. 1 on 16 March 2020, suspending the period to resolve FOI requests until 12 April 2020. Subsequently, Advisory No. 2 was issued on 8 April 2020, extending the suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests until 30 April 2020. Advisory No. 3 was issued on 29 April 2020, further extending the suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests until lifting of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and lifting the suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests for all agencies whose principal location is declared under the General Community Quarantine (GCQ).

Finally, Advisory No. 4 was issued on 1 June 2020, lifting the suspension to resolve FOI requests for offices in areas placed under GCQ or Modified GCQ. The same advisory extends the suspension of period to resolve FOI requests for offices located in ECQ or Modified ECQ districts.



Chapter **5****Forging Collaborations and Partnerships:
Shared Vision, Shared Commitment****STII: StarBooks**

On 8 November 2019, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the FOI-PMO and the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) was signed to establish an effective and efficient partnership, maintain objectives and all commitments related to the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosk Station (STARBOOKS) Project.

The MOA was signed by FOI Program Director and Assistant Secretary Kristian R. Ablan and DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, witnessed by FOI-PMO Compliance Monitoring Chief, Eden Darlene A. Mendoza and Chief Science Research Specialist, Mr. Alan C. Taule.

YAFOI: Philippine FOI Virtual Assembly 2020

The Youth Alliance for Freedom of Information (YAFOI), the biggest and only independent alliance of youth organizations in the Philippines advocating for FOI, hosted the Philippine FOI Virtual Assembly 2020, in partnership with the International Youth United. The event had gathered representatives from the youth, civil society, and the government and facilitated sessions on FOI re-orientation and strategy-building to continue the effective response and delivery of the citizens' right to access information amidst the pandemic.

Representatives from the FOI-PMO attended the event as resource speakers to the following sessions: 26 May 2020 (Luzon Leg), 28 May 2020 (Visayas Leg); and 30 May 2020 (Mindanao Leg).

ADMU: BIGKIS Program

The Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) - Office for Social Concern and Involvement has partnered with the FOI-PMO through its BIGKIS Program or National Service Training Program (NSTP) to deepen the students' understanding of the processes of economic and social development, as well as their knowledge of concepts and skills in addressing poverty, exclusion, inequality and vulnerability in the Philippine context.

Through this engagement, students are provided with opportunities to observe and participate in the current and existing activities and projects of the FOI-PMO particularly through the development of IEC campaign materials to popularize the FOI Program, and involvement in the FOI-AID Tool to help strengthen the FOI implementation of government agencies.

DBM: Open Government Partnership

The Philippines is one of the founding countries of the Open Government Partnership in 2011--a multilateral initiative which aims to secure concrete commitments from national and local governments to promote open government, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

Now on its 5th run, the Philippines is set to publish its OGP National Action Plan (NAP) for 2019-2022. The PCOO, as one of the commitment holders for the Philippine Open Government partnership has committed the "Passage of the FOI Law and the Localization of the FOI Program."



DAP: "FOI 101: Online Course"

The FOI-PMO partners with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in regard to the development of a short introductory course on FOI as part of Project SPARTA. The Project SPARTA is an initiative by DAP, Department of Science and Technology, Analytics Association of the Philippines, and Coursebank, which aims to train 30,000 students through various learning pathways in the field of data science and analytics. Through this project, the FOI-PMO envisions to capacitate Filipino citizens in exercising their right to access information through the FOI Program as part also of the smart and data governance campaign of Project SPARTA.



CHED: STS Program

On 14 October 2019, the PCOO met with the CHED - Office of Planning, Research and Knowledge Management (OPKRM) and the University of the Philippines System to discuss the inclusion of the FOI Program in the new General Education Curriculum for Higher Education Institutions, particularly under the Science, Technology and Society (STS) Program.

In line with our efforts, the FOI-PMO continues to build awareness and strengthen the capacities of the public to further empower them on their right to access government information. With these, the FOI-PMO will conduct a training-workshop entitled "FOI for Higher Education: The role of access to information in today's data-driven society" for personnel involved in the STS Program of their respective institution on 5 December 2019 in the Great Eastern Hotel, Quezon City.



NPC: Data Privacy and FOI Congress

On 22 September 2020, the National Privacy Commission (NPC) conducted the very first Data Privacy and FOI Congress to clarify relevant and pressing issues surrounding the implementation of the FOI Program and the Data Privacy Act of 2012 as part of the Government's efforts in promoting data and privacy protection as well as access to information more so amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



LGA: Online Executive Coaching Session

The Local Government Academy (LGA), as the training arm of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), has been implementing the Newly Elected Official (NEO) Executive Coaching Session, which aims to strengthen the skill set of the newly elected officials, especially in formulating local plans and making decisions, in order to ensure a more competitive, effective, innovated, and responsive local government.

On 16 September 2020, as part of the FOI-PMO's efforts in localizing the FOI Program, Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director Kristian Ablan urged the LGUs to localize the FOI Program implementation as one of the transparency, accountability mechanisms, during the Program for NEO - Online Executive Coaching Session entitled "Stand on Facts: Local Governments solutions to combat misinformation".



Partnerships in the Pipeline



CLD: Assessment

On 24 February 2020, the FOI-PMO conducted an Right to Information (RTI) Assessment Workshop at Astoria Greenbelt, Makati City, with the Executive Director Toby Mendel of the Center for Law and Democracy (CLD), situated in Halifax, Canada. The FOI team was also joined by members of the Right to Know Right Now! (R2KRN) Coalition to represent the non-government sector.

This is in line with the office's efforts to properly implement the RTI Assessment/Rating - an initiative of CLD - among the different agencies, departments, and offices in the Executive Branch.

NAP: ERM Policy

In partnership with FOI-PMO, the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP) drafted the Electronic Records Management (ERM) Policy to set standards and guide the government sector in the shift from traditional paper records management to an electronic regime. Through a series of virtual meetings, the PCOO and the NAP discussed each provision of the said ERM Policy.

DAP: FOI Certification Program

The FOI-PMO partners with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in the formulation of a Certification Course on FOI. The course shall feature a set of practical interventions aligned with partner agencies and organizations such as the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP), the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), and the National Privacy Commission (NPC), which will be compressed by DAP into sets of module to further inform FOI practitioners on access to information, data privacy, and data management among others.

As contained in the pre-launch deliverables of the FOI Certification Course, the FOI-PMO has been closely coordinating with DAP in the drafting and finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Moving Forward

Reaching out to the People



Barangay FOI

A barangay-level FOI campaign that includes relevant FOI discussions/sessions. The program includes talks about FOI and other transparency initiatives of the government and an information drive from invited agencies. It aims to build awareness of FOI at the grassroots level and seeks to champion FOI in LGUs (barangay), and the masses.

FOI Social Media Content Production

FOI Social Media Content Production includes capturing of FOI success stories, agency testimonials, and interviews of ordinary people. This project aims to document and share to a wider audience the successes and gains of FOI as a landmark government program under the Duterte Administration, and to call citizens to utilize FOI to request public information from the government.

CPD Requirement for Secondary Professional Teachers

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Teachers is in partnership with the Professional Regulatory Commission to train teachers on the FOI Program. The FOI-PMO would want teachers to be equipped in using the FOI Platforms in their academic research and for them to teach students on how to fully utilize the FOI Platforms in academic research to acquire relevant, truthful, verified, and official information from the government.

Open Government Partnership Week

The Open Government Partnership Week (Open Gov Week) is an international event celebrated around the world by open government leaders, thinkers, and advocates who come together to share ideas, discuss innovative solutions and commit to new levels of citizen participation in government. To take part in this celebration, the FOI-PMO would like to co-organize the same event with partner agencies and/or organizations in support of the whole open government agenda.

This aims to bring together partners of the FOI Program and the Philippines-Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) to discuss relevant issues concerning transparency, accountability, and civic participation in governance.

Open Government Partnership



International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) Hosting

The ICIC is a global network of member Information Commissioners who meet regularly in order to foster the protection and the promotion of access to public information as a fundamental pillar to social, economic, and democratic governance. The FOI-PMO, as a newly accredited member of the ICIC last February 2020, would like to take the opportunity to host the Conference to provide an an opportunity to address current issues on access to information, including transparency and accountability, competing interests, the rights of vulnerable societies and the divisive role of technology through an international platform.

It also aims to strengthen public access to information through international cooperation among Information Commissioners around the world.



Chapter 6 TESTIMONIALS AND MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

Isang magandang araw po sa inyong lahat!

I have always believed that for our country to become truly progressive, we need to establish a system of governance that promotes the values of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.

It is a system built on the assumption that better governing comes from collaborative efforts between the leaders, and the people.

But an ideal system of governance cannot be achieved overnight. Just like a solid foundation of a house, it must be built, brick by brick.

One of those bricks, is a Freedom of Information law.

I have always believed that an empowered people make for the best Ombudsman. With an FOI law in place, a citizen's audit of government transactions will be easier to conduct.

Sunlight, they say, is the best disinfectant. Exposing the government to the "sunshine of public scrutiny" would kill the "germs" that lead to corruption.

During my first term, one of the bills that I first introduced in the Senate was the People's Freedom of Information Act. I was able to get it passed in the Senate but sadly, it did not pass the Lower House. Hence, there is no FOI law yet. I have refiled this bill, and included many improvements to make it more effective.

Though a law does not yet exist, there is an executive order which requires every agency in the Executive Branch to provide for full public disclosure of all government records involving public interest. PCOO was designated as the lead agency in the implementation of Executive Order No. 2.

Today, we celebrate four years of implementing this FOI Program which has allowed Filipinos to enjoy their Constitutional right to information not just in theory, but in actual practice.

EO No. 2 is a significant step into the light from the decades of darkness we have been subjected to throughout our history.

Nonetheless, an FOI law is still necessary so that not just the executive branch, but all branches of government would be covered. Unlike an EO, a law would be more permanent, continuing in nature, thus transcending change in administrations.

While the EO provides for administrative liabilities, our proposed FOI law has more teeth by providing for both administrative as well as criminal liabilities and corresponding penalties for violations of the Act.

Now, more than ever, with the country severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, every peso counts. Congress recently passed the Bayanihan 2 law which allocates billions of pesos to address the health and economic challenges caused by the virus.

As a result, Filipinos are more vigilant in monitoring where public funds go. They have used social media to actively post comments and questions such as: Nakakaabot ba sa kanila ang ayuda? May nakakalimutan bang sektor ang kanilang gobyerno? Napapanahon ba ang mga proyekto na pinapatupad ngayong pandemya?

But we in government must welcome these questions. Greater access to information will enable ordinary citizens to participate meaningfully in decision-making, thereby making our policies and programs more responsive to their needs.

To create systemic change, we need a law that will create a culture of integrity, where citizens and leaders both abide by the highest ethical standards.

To the members of the Presidential Communications Operations Office, yours is a tough job of the utmost importance. **We have a long way to go, but we have come this far and can decide how history will be written today.**


Grace Poe
Senator



A pleasant day to everyone.

I am honored to be part of the 2020 Freedom of Information Summit and Awards, and to be reunited with fellow advocates and champions for the Freedom of Information (FOI).

Ever since President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order (EO) No. 02 or the Executive Order for the People's Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies of Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in Public Service in 2016, the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and the Freedom of Information Project Management Office have been at the forefront of upholding our right of access to information.

They, along with FOI advocates all around the country, have stood at the vanguard of promoting transparency and accountability in public service. Hence, I am expressing my deepest gratitude and sincerest congratulations to PCOO, FOI-PMO, and the brave FOI advocates who weathered the many challenges we have encountered.

Transparency and accountability are central ideas in the concept of good governance. The disclosure of information and transparent decisionmaking processes empower citizens and other stakeholders to examine and be familiar with actions that concern the public, and hold governments responsible. As public servants, it our duty and responsibility to serve the country and the Filipino people to the best of our abilities. Policies that promote Freedom of Information will help us deepen that commitment.

In the time of COVID-19, information is power. Access to services from appropriate government agencies can help alleviate the situation of Filipinos and that begins with the availability of correct and reliable information. Conversely, misinformation can dangerously lead to helplessness, anxiety, and might even cost the life of our people.

And so, while the Executive Order No. 2 have led to great strides in the almost three decades worth of lobbying from FOI advocates, we must expand the scope of FOI in government through a national legislation that can cover other important government institutions like local governments, the legislature, independent constitutional bodies and the judiciary.

We have filed House Bill No. 5776 or the Freedom of Information Bill to fully realize this untapped potential of FOI in governance. This important legislation, if passed, can further strengthen the bridge that connects the government to its people through the right of access to information.

To fellow members of the 18th Congress; to the advocates who have tirelessly campaigned for the passage of such important legislation; and to the government agencies that continue to support our call, I entreat you and everyone to unite and work together for the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill. I have high hopes that the enactment of the Freedom of Information Law will be another legacy of the 18th Congress of the Philippines.

Thank you very much. Mabuhay ang FOI! Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!

Rep. Alfred Vargas
Congressman
Fifth District, Quezon City



Warmest greetings to the organizers, advocates and participants of the 2020 Freedom of Information Summit and Awards!

One of the very first acts by President Rodrigo Duterte upon his assumption to office was the signing of Executive Order No. 02 which operationalizes in the Executive Branch the People's Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies of Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service. With this, openness to the public and transparency became hallmarks of the Duterte administration.

Students who are conducting research for academic purposes can easily request information from various government offices. Non-government organizations which are developing programs for their target beneficiaries can readily access data and research studies from the executive department. Media practitioners who are writing investigative reports can substantiate their prose with facts and figures uploaded in official websites.

I would like to commend the men and women of the Freedom of Information - Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) for spearheading the cause and laying the groundwork towards the effective implementation of the FOI Program. In a very short time, the team was able to accomplish much - from building the mechanisms and capacities of our local government units to changing the mindsets of stakeholders towards upholding the people's right to information.

The Senate had previously approved on Third and Final Reading its version of the FOI Bill, which institutionalizes full public disclosure of all transactions involving public interest. The bill, of which this representation is one of the co-authors, covered all government agencies in the executive, legislative and judicial branches, including constitutional bodies, local governments, government-owned and -controlled corporations, and state universities and colleges. It also declared as a policy the promotion of meaningful and increased participation of the people in government decision-making and public accountability.

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media, I am hopeful, that with your expertise and support, we can again craft and steer into passage an FOI Bill that is truly responsive and attuned to the needs of our time.

Congratulations! Mabuhay!


Ranton Bong Revilla, Jr.
Senator



I would like to extend my congratulations and warmest felicitations to the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), particularly to the Freedom of Information-Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) and its Program Director, Assistant Secretary Kristian R. Ablan, for its implementation of the FOI Program in the Executive Branch. Your efforts in advocating for transparency and accountability in the government through access to information have resulted in considerable success and is indeed noteworthy.

The conduct of the 2020 FOI Summit and Awards this coming November 2020 is an indicator of this success. Currently on its fourth year, the FOI Summit and Awards highlights the strides that the government has made and provides a platform for all stakeholders, who come from various sectors of society, to exchange views and opinions, innovations and development, and engage in collaborative discussions for better implementation.

In a time when the world is reeling from the onslaught of a global pandemic, our government is put under scrutiny for every decision it makes affecting the lives of millions of Filipinos. Information has become a powerful tool in combating the spread of the virus. Full disclosure of the number of COVID-19 cases in the country and regular briefings by the President and the cabinet have helped the people understand what is happening and what the government is doing to combat the effects of the pandemic. Transparency in government spending will ensure that the people's money is being spent wisely towards virus mitigation and containment, job generation, assistance to the poor and needy, assistance to small and medium scale businesses, repatriation of OFWs, educational support for our teachers and students in public schools, COVID-19 mass testing and provision of adequate protection gear and equipment for our frontliners. Our people should know and feel that their government is here for them.


Now, more than ever, during these most trying times. The government must work hand in hand with its people to ensure that we flatten the virus curve and help our economy recover. Transparency and accountability have become paramount in having informed and empowered citizenry.

I firmly believe the Freedom of Information Law needs to be enacted in our country to further boost and ensure that the people's right to information on matters of public concern is being upheld at all times. As a democratic nation, the people should be able to participate in government decision making and hold those in office whether elected, appointed or rank and file accountable at all times.

As the Chairman of the Committee in the Public Information, I would like to express my full support to the passage of an FOI Bill in the Congress and I enjoin my fellow Congressmen to support FOI bills currently pending in the House of Representatives and together help craft one that is truly responsive to our people's needs.

Again, to the PCOO and the FOI-PMO family, congratulations. Mabuhay po kayo!

Mabalo!


Hon. Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara
Congressman





“ It has been the policy of the Department of Labor and Employment to uphold the highest level of transparency and freedom of information in good and bad times. It’s our commitment to provide the general public with honest and truthful information. ”

The COVID-19 pandemic made us more creative in proactively disclosing data and information on the Social Amelioration Programs implemented by the DOLE for Affected Workers. ”

SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment



“ In the quest for excellence in public service, accountability and responsibility in information dissemination and utilization should be the major indicators. ”

For Cebu Normal University, the Freedom of Information Program of the government has polished the University’s measures of materializing this indicator of excellence. ”

DR. FILOMENA T. DAYAGBIL
President
Cebu Normal University



FOI SUCCESS STORIES: FOI

“ FOI portal helped us get our most needed data for our advocacy reform, to promote tree plantations development in the country. Accurate, complete, and updated data are needed before making any policy recommendation and the portal just delivered that. With the data we acquired, we learned that more private lands are still available, and they, along with public lands, hold so much potential in putting back the Philippine forest sector into its feet. With this, we are more confident to push for the policy reform that is to ease the harvest and transport rules on tree plantations to encourage investments in the forest and the environment. ”

ANGELA ARNANTE
Senior Program Officer
Foundation for Economic Freedom



“ The eFOI is a fast and convenient way to access data. Given the pandemic, this has been my thesis group’s saving grace for data collection. In my experience, eFOI officers approve your request more often than not within the day of your filing and government agencies really reply within the next ten days. It is also nice that if these agencies do not have the data asked for, they redirect you to other viable sources of that data. ”

THERESE FADULLON
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science
Ateneo de Manila University

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“ The Freedom of Information (FOI) Program plays a vital role in running the government effectively through full public disclosure. ”

Over two years since it was signed, it has become a compelling mechanism in promoting an open, transparent, and accountable governance in all agencies under the Executive branch. ”

VIVENCIO B. DIZON
President and CEO
Bases Conversion and Development Authority



“ FOI connects the government and the public by establishing pathways to access information on a broader spectrum, and it is this sense of empowering by the people that translates to a more productive and involved citizenry. ”

LEONARDO REY D. VASQUEZ
General Manager
Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD)



FOI SUCCESS STORIES

“ I never thought that my research on my future project on how to elevate the life of the construction workers here in the Philippines will be easy because of the help of e-FOI. ”

At first, I didn’t know this is possible and existing until I tried it. Kudos to the people who are behind this awesome improvement to our information system. ”

MARK JOHN BENEDICT ROLA
President, Metro Goldrich Construction



“ I took the advantage to request multiple data from different government agencies in FOI and I am very satisfied, and at the same time impressed as some of my requests are marked denied, however, FOI officer reached me via email providing an alternative data (from the agency that might be useful), and they also provided me emails of who to contact for further questions. ”

MARGARITA DE GUZMAN
Student, Adamson University

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WARRIORS OF TRANSPARENCY

POLICY, PLANNING, AND SUPPORT DIVISION

The Policy, Planning, and Support Division (PPSD) primarily recommends plans and policies and implements guidelines related to the FOI in order to address policy gaps in the implementation of the Program.



Atty. Tristan E. De Guzman

Chief, Policy, Planning and Support Division and Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Legislative Affairs and Freedom of Information
Supervise, monitor and provide policy direction to PPSPD and assist the Assistant Secretary in the management of OPLA-FOI



Atty. Mae Anne O. Sandoval

Senior Policy Officer
Lead and manages the policy formulation, review and research, and coordinates the development and implementation of a range of policy initiatives of OPLA-FOI



Ma. Krishannah V. Arnidoval

Senior Planning and Support Officer
Lead the planning and evaluation of technical and administrative tasks of OPLA-FOI, and supervises the support unit



Kristian Veil N. Nierves

Planning Officer and Procurement Lead
Monitor, record and maintain budget and financial status of FOI, and lead the management, administration, and supervision of procurement activities of OPLA-FOI



Rheanne L. Pascua

Capacity Development Lead
Lead the training, development of workshops, and capacity development methodologies and activities of OPLA-FOI



Jona S. Topacio

Asset Management Officer
Record, monitor, and ensure the sufficiency of supplies and assets of OPLA-FOI



Carla Bianca O. Serut

Procurement Officer
Monitor, record, prepare report and handle procurement activities of OPLA-FOI



Jaya V. Illustrisimo

Records Officer
Responsible for the maintenance and safekeeping of digital and physical records, information and documents of OPLA-FOI



Chayenne O. Sy

Procurement Officer
Monitor, record, prepare report and handle procurement activities of OPLA-FOI

POLICY, PLANNING, AND SUPPORT DIVISION



Karlo Lomar L. Tiangson

Legislative Liaison Officer
Coordinate and Liaise with the Legislative Branch of Government and key stakeholders for the passage of legislative initiatives of PCOO



Francis Jasper F. Fulgar

Legislative Liaison Officer
Coordinate and Liaise with the Legislative Branch of Government and key stakeholders for the passage of legislative initiatives of PCOO



Anthony D. Cu

Executive Assistant
Provide administrative support to the Assistant Secretary in his official business



Jhon Erbil B. Sinforoso

Administrative Aide
Provide administrative support to OPLA-FOI and manages the routing of procurement documents



Jonathan B. Radores

Administrative Aide
Provide administrative support to OPLA-FOI and prepare materials for capacity development activities



Jose Nel F. Maquirang

Administrative Aide
Provide administrative support to OPLA-FOI and deliver official correspondences to stakeholders



Roberto B. Luanzon

Maintenance Aide
Provide administrative support and maintenance work for OPLA-FOI



Margielyn T. Jimena

Asset Management Aide
Provide administrative support, and assist in the management of supplies and assets of OPLA-FOI

COMPLIANCE MONITORING DIVISION

COMPLIANCE MONITORING DIVISION

The Compliance Monitoring Division (CMD) is responsible for monitoring and facilitating the implementation of EO No. 2 s. 2016 and the FOI Program by all government offices under the Executive Branch.



Eden Darlene A. Mendoza
Compliance Monitoring Chief

Provide guidance and advice to the Team on the development and execution of the compliance monitoring system for agencies



Ma. Danica A. Orcullo
Senior Compliance Monitoring Officer

Develop and conduct Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms and programs to assist agencies in FOI compliance



Patricia Marri O. Maranan
Junior Compliance Monitoring Officer

Monitor and evaluate compliance of government agencies to the FOI Program and lead the FOI Orientation and technical assistance for agencies



Deniel Angelou G. Echevarria
Compliance Monitoring Officer

Assists in the development and signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SUCs and other schools, and liaise accordingly



Dianne M. Gammad
Compliance Monitoring Officer

Monitors and evaluates compliance of LWDs to the requirements of the FOI Program and liaise accordingly

COMMUNICATIONS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

COMMUNICATIONS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Communications and Capacity Development Division (CCDD) strives to empower agencies and offices under the Executive Branch with competencies to properly implement EO No. 2 s. 2016 and the FOI Program. The activities and interventions that the CCDD can provide is founded on its CCDD Workplan, which covers a spectrum of FOI systems, procedures, and practices.



Krizia Casey P. Avejar
Division Chief and Finance Officer

Manage and provide policy direction for Communications and Capacity Development Division, and supervise the financial management and budget planning of FOI - PMO



Martin Jann G. Ceneta
Information Technology Lead

Lead the management, development, and enhancement of the eFOI portal and provide technical support to all agencies onboarded to the portal



Armand Frederick V. Gatpayat
Communications Officer

Assist in handling the social media accounts of FOI Philippines and research data for FOI communication campaigns



John Wilmer G. Jimenez
Senior Communications and Social Media Specialist

Manage the social media accounts of FOI Philippines, and formulate communications plan and public service campaigns



Ma. Jerica Alexisse G. Ramirez
Junior Creative Arts Specialist

Research data for communication campaigns and assist in the development of branding, design, and data visualization for information dissemination



Kate B. Refendor
Senior Creative Arts and Brand Management Specialist

Lead in the formulation of brand awareness and creative communications strategies of FOI Philippines



Ryan G. Torda
Brand Management Officer

Assist in the creation of infographics and other data visualizations for information dissemination



Valerie R. Valenzuela
Communications and Engagement Officer

Content writer and assist in engagement and capacity building activities on FOI program implementation



April F. Aurea
Junior Creative Arts Specialist

Organize, record, edit, and review video productions to achieve the desired promotional and/or educational objectives of the FOI - PMO

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UNIT

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UNIT

The Strategic Partnership Unit (SPU) handles the linkages of the FOI-PMO with local and international organizations, and the development and implementation of the FOI Strategic Partnership Roadmap.



Pearl Iris L. Clemente
Engagement Lead

Develops and maintains Strategic Partnerships with various government agencies, civil society organizations, and international organizations that will assist the development of the FOI Program



Marinella R. Ricafranca
Engagement Officer

Assists in the implementation of the Strategic Partnerships engagement strategy for various government agencies, civil society organizations, and international organizations that will assist the development of the FOI Program

FOI RADIO TEAM

The FOI Radio Team handles the branding, content creation, communication strategy, and overall production management of the FOI sa Radyo program.



Jerald Bien Gahinanan
FOI Radio Graphic Artist

Conceptualize and execute an efficient system for implementing creative/ brand/ communications management for the FOI Radio Program

Janzen Alec M. Lopez
FOI Radio Writer/ Researcher

Conduct in-depth research on related topics in order to develop original content for the FOI Radio Program and undertake the development of communication materials for the FOI Radio program



Jennifer B. Tabaosares
FOI Radio Writer/ Researcher

Conduct in-depth research on related topics in order to develop original content for the FOI Radio Program and undertake the development of communication materials for the FOI Radio program



Mikaela C. Guerra
FOI Radio Executive Producer

Oversees day-to-day production processes of the FOI Radio Program and introduce new concepts and ideas that may align with brand initiatives of the program

FOI RADIO TEAM

FOI CHAMPION



Jose Ruperto Martin M. Andanar
Secretary and FOI Champion
Presidential Communications Operations Office

FOI PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Kristian R. Ablan
Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director
Presidential Communications Operations Office

ACTIVITIES

Blood Donation



21 October 2019 | In cooperation with the Philippine Red Cross, the FOI-PMO conducted a blood donation drive.

FOI PMO Covid19 Swab Tests



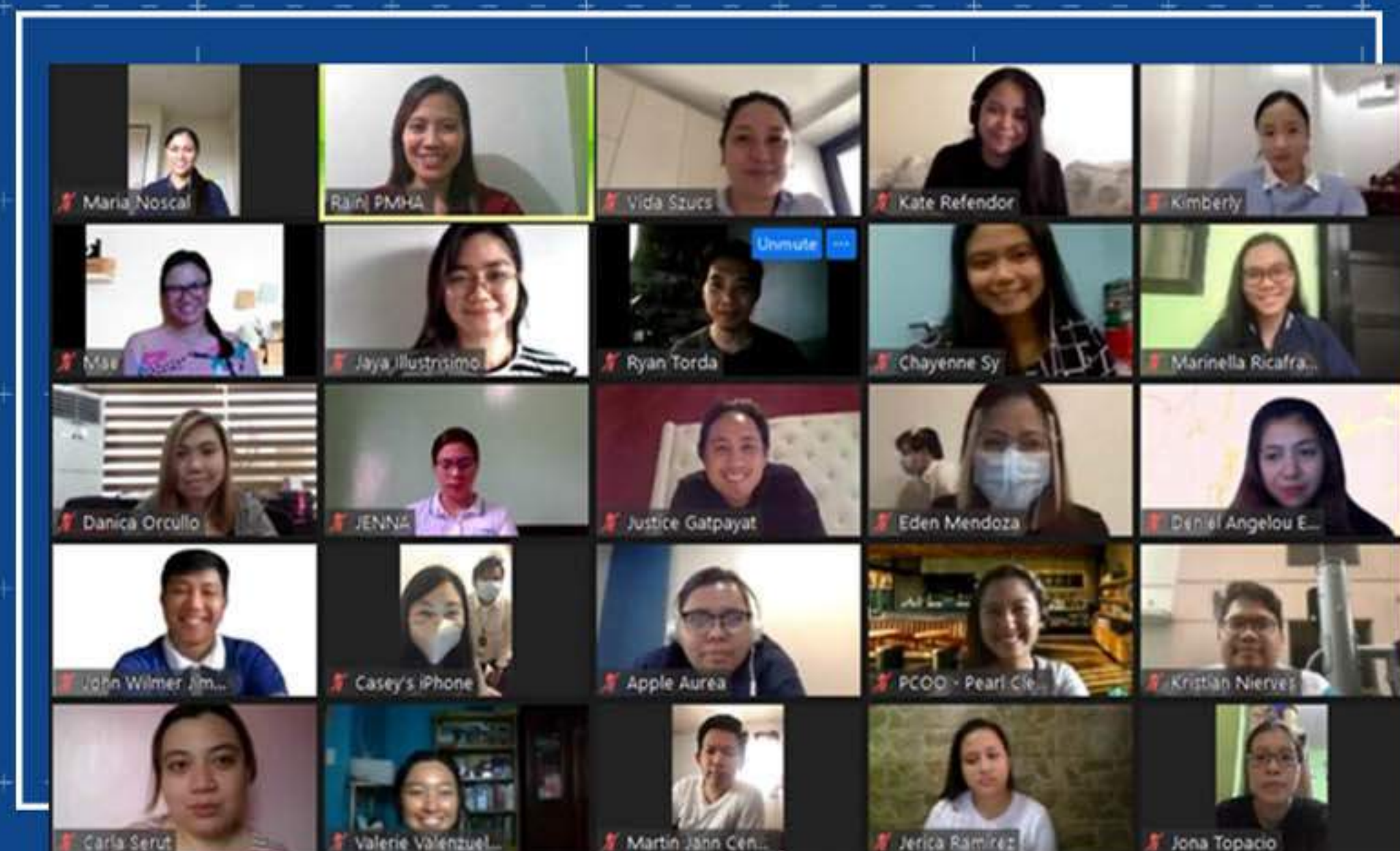
As part of FOI-PMO's safety measures amidst the pandemic, all personnel underwent swab testing at Palacio De Manila, a government swab testing facility to ensure the safety of all employees while performing our mandate and as one of the frontliners in providing critical information during these difficult times.



4 August 2019 | As support to the initiative of the Philippine government led by MMDA, DENR and City of Manila, the FOI-PMO joined the clean-up drive to rehabilitate the Manila Bay.



February 6 to 8, 2020 | Through this activity, the FOI-PMO laid out its plans, projects, activities, and priorities for CY 2020.



To further guide everyone during the National Mental Health Week in dealing with the daily stress caused by the pandemic and learn ways to manage it, the Philippine Mental Health Association conducted a series of counselling and group sessions to the officers of FOI-PMO.

Manila Bay Clean-up Drive

PSC and FOI-PMO Strategic Planning-Workshop 2020

Mental Health Awareness

FOI Collaterals

As part of the communications campaign of the FOI-PMO, FOI collaterals such as FOI jackets, mugs, banners, library materials, notebooks, pens, t-shirts, and stickers were provided to key stakeholders to strengthen the presence of the FOI Program in their respective institutions as well as increase public awareness of the program.



ISO QMS

As part of the QMS Core team for training and advocacy, the FOI-PMO attended a series of training sessions of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) that were conducted through Google Meet Video Teleconference (VTC) with the following topics:

- 1 Workshop on Process Streamlining
- 2 ISO 9001:2015 Technical Guidance
- 3 ISO 9001:2015 QMS Implementation Plan
- 4 Seminar on 5s Quality Workplace

The said orientation provides guidance and assistance to focal persons and personnel of the PCOO in establishing its QMS.

FOI Viber Stickers



To celebrate the fourth year anniversary, the FOI-PMO launched its very own FOI-themed Viber sticker pack. Featuring FRIDA (Freedom of Information Digital Assistant) and Tali the Owl, our viber stickers aim to educate and give the public an idea on our FOI implementation. The "FOI Ph Fact na Pack" is downloadable for free from Viber's Sticker Market.

Public Assistance

The FOI-PMO responded to **3,887 emails** from government agencies regarding the following matters:

- FY 2018 and 2019 PBB Compliance
- Accessing their accounts in the eFOI Portal
- Inquiries regarding the e-FOI suspension
- Request for information
- Request for orientation/meetings
- Other Admin Matters