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13 November 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO : **ALL ACPC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**

FROM : **THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRICULTURAL CREDIT POLICY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT : **DA'S FREEDOM OF INFORMATION MANUAL**

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 2 series of 2016 (*Operationalizing in the Executive Branch the People's Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies to Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service and Providing Guidelines Therefor*), all ACPC officials and employees are hereby directed to comply with the Department of Agriculture's Freedom of Information Manual (DA's FOI Manual).

Said Manual, which shall be used by all DA agencies, spells out the internal guidelines, procedures, standard request and reply forms, etc. to be followed for uniformity of implementation in providing the public with access to information. The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) shall monitor the implementation and compliance of agencies as provided for by EO No. 2 s. 2016.

The DA FOI Manual shall be posted in the intranet, ACPC Website and internal FB page for everyone's information and guidance.

For strict compliance.

JOCELYN ALMA R. BADIOLA
Executive Director

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With Prosperous Farmers and Fisherfolk*



FREEDOM *of* INFORMATION



MANUAL



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City, 1100 Philippines

FOREWORD



Executive Order (EO) No. 2 signed by President Rodrigo Duterte on July 23, 2016 laid down a state policy of full public disclosure and transparency in public service, in keeping with the people's democratic right to know about their government.

Also known as the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program, the EO allows unfettered public access to relevant data and information about official records and documents from all offices under the Office of the President, subject to reasonable restrictions and regulations.

It therefore manifests the President's commitment to promoting greater transparency, accountability and citizen participation in governance as we in the national government work with concerned sectors and other development partners for genuine and inclusive socio-economic prosperity.

Since its implementation, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has actively supported the FOI program, adopting this "DA Freedom of Information Manual" as basis for its implementation in the Office of the Secretary and our Regional Field Offices, Bureaus, Attached Agencies and Corporations and other units across the country.

This Manual contains the procedures and regulations in the application of the law, so that the balance between the peoples' right to information and the government's need to protect its data will be achieved and properly applied.

We are hopeful that this Manual will help us provide timely and useful information to agri-fishery stakeholders and the general public as we pursue stronger multi-sectoral partnerships for a food-secure nation with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk.

WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

"A food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk"



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SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this FOI Manual (Manual) is to provide the process to guide and assist the DEPARTMENT including its attached agencies, bureaus and offices, in dealing with requests of information received under Executive Order (E.O.) No. 2 on Freedom of Information (FOI). **(Annex “A”)**

2. **Structure of the Manual:** This Manual shall set out the rules and procedures to be followed by the DEPARTMENT, and its attached agencies, bureaus and offices, when a request for access to information is received. The DEPARTMENT Secretary is responsible for all actions carried out under this Manual and may delegate this responsibility to the Undersecretary of the DEPARTMENT and the respective Heads of the attached agencies, bureaus, and offices. The Secretary, or the respective Heads, may delegate a specific officer to act as the Decision Maker (DM) and shall have overall responsibility for the initial decision on FOI requests, (i.e. to decide whether to release all the records, partially release the records or deny access).

3. **Coverage of the Manual:** The Manual shall cover all requests for information directed to the DEPARTMENT and all its regional field offices, attached agencies, bureaus, and offices, as follows:
 - a) Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)
 - b) Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)
 - c) Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS)
 - d) Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
 - e) Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)
 - f) Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)
 - g) Agricultural Credit and Policy Council (ACPC)
 - h) Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)
 - i) National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)
 - j) Philippine Carabao Center (PCC)
 - k) Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech)
 - l) Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF)
 - m) Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFida)
 - n) National Dairy Authority (NDA)
 - o) National Tobacco Authority (NTA)
 - p) Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC)
 - q) Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA)

- r) Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)
- s) Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)

4. **FOI Receiving Officer:** There shall be an FOI Receiving Officer (FRO) designated at the DEPARTMENT. The FRO shall preferably come from the Public Assistance, Records Office, or Information Office, or its equivalent, of the DEPARTMENT. The FRO hold office at G/F DA New Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

The functions of the FRO shall include receiving on behalf of the DEPARTMENT or any of its regional field offices, attached agencies, bureaus and offices, all requests for information and forward the same to the appropriate office who has custody of the records; monitor all FOI requests and appeals; provide assistance to the FOI Decision Maker; provide assistance and support to the public and staff with regard to FOI; compile statistical information as required; conduct initial evaluation of the request; and advise the requesting party whether the request will be forwarded to the FOI Decision Maker for further evaluation, or deny the request based on:

- a) That the form is incomplete; or
- b) That the information is already disclosed in the DEPARTMENT's Official Website (da.gov.ph) or at data.gov.ph.

Attached agencies, bureaus and offices of the DEPARTMENT shall assign their respective FROs. **(Annex "B")**

5. **FOI Decision Maker:** There shall be an FOI Decision Maker (FDM), designated by the SECRETARY, with a rank of not lower than a Director or its equivalent, who shall conduct evaluation of the request for information and has the authority to grant the request, or deny it based on the following:

- a) The DEPARTMENT does not have the information requested;
- b) The information requested contains sensitive personal information protected by the Data Privacy Act of 2012;
- c) The information requested falls under the list of exceptions to FOI; or
- d) The request is an unreasonable subsequent identical or substantially similar request from the same requesting party whose request has already been previously granted or denied by the DEPARTMENT.
- e) The power to either grant or deny in full or in part the request of an individual or a corporate entity.

6. **Central Appeals and Review Committee:** There shall be a central appeals and review committee composed of three (3) officials with a rank not lower

than Director or its equivalent, designated by the SECRETARY of the DEPARTMENT to review and analyze the grant or denial of request of information. The Committee shall also provide expert advice to the SECRETARY on the denial of such request. The heads of the attached agencies, bureaus and offices shall likewise create a Central Appeals and Review Committee within their agencies, bureaus and offices in similar manner stated herein.

7. **Approval and Denial of Request to Information:** The Decision Maker shall approve or deny all request of information. In case where the Decision Maker is on official leave, the Secretary of the DEPARTMENT may delegate such authority to his Chief of Staff. The heads of the attached agencies, bureaus and offices shall likewise have the authority to delegate such authority in the same manner.

SECTION 2: DEFINITION OF TERMS

data.gov.ph. The Open Data website that serves as the government's comprehensive portal for all public government data that is searchable, understandable, and accessible.

eFOI.gov.ph. The website that serves as the government's comprehensive FOI website for all information on the FOI. Among many other features, eFOI.gov.ph provides a central resource for the public to understand the FOI, to locate records that are already available online, and to learn how to make a request for information that is not yet publicly available. eFOI.gov.ph also promotes agency accountability for the administration of the FOI by graphically displaying the detailed statistics contained in Annual FOI Reports, so that they can be compared by agency and over time.

INFORMATION. Shall mean any records, documents, papers, reports, letters, contracts, minutes and transcripts of official meetings, maps, books, photographs, data, research materials, films, sound and video recording, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data, computer stored data, any other like or similar data or materials recorded, stored or archived in whatever format, whether offline or online, which are made, received, or kept in or under the control and custody of any government office pursuant to law, executive order, and rules and regulations or in connection with the performance or transaction of official business by any government office.

INFORMATION FOR DISCLOSURE. Information promoting the awareness and understanding of policies, programs, activities, rules or revisions affecting the public, government agencies, and the community and economy. It also includes information encouraging familiarity with the general operations, thrusts, and programs of the government. In line with the concept of proactive disclosure and open data, these types of information can already be posted to government websites, such as data.gov.ph, without need for written requests from the public.

OFFICIAL RECORD/S. Shall refer to information produced or received by a public officer or employee, or by a government office in an official capacity or pursuant to a public function or duty.

OPEN DATA. Refers to publicly available data structured in a way that enables the data to be fully discoverable and usable by end users.

PUBLIC RECORDS. Shall include information required by laws, executive orders, rules, or regulations to be entered, kept, and made publicly available by a government office.

PUBLIC SERVICE CONTRACTOR. Shall be defined as a private entity that has dealing, contract, or a transaction of whatever form or kind with the government or a government agency or office that utilizes public funds.

PERSONAL INFORMATION. Shall refer to any information, whether recorded in a material form or not, from which the identity of an individual is apparent or can be reasonably and directly ascertained by the entity holding the information, or when put together with other information would directly and certainly identify an individual.

SENSITIVE PERSONAL INFORMATION. As defined in the Data Privacy Act of 2012, shall refer to personal information:

- (1) About an individual race, ethnic origin, marital status, age, color, and religious philosophical or political affiliations;
- (2) About an individual health, education, genetic or sexual life of a person, or to any proceedings for any offense committed or alleged to have committed by such person, the disposal of such proceedings or the sentence of any court in such proceedings;
- (3) Issued by government agencies peculiar to an individual which includes, but not limited to, social security numbers, previous or current health records, licenses or its denials, suspension or revocation, and tax returns; and
- (4) Specifically established by an executive order or an act of Congress to be kept classified.

DATA SHARING. As defined in the Data Privacy Act of 2012, shall refer to disclosure or transfer to a third party of personal data under the custody of a personal information controller or personal information processor. In the case of the latter, such disclosure or transfer must have been upon the instructions of the personal information controller concerned. The term excludes outsourcing, or the disclosure or transfer of personal data by a personal information controller to a personal information processor.

PROFILING. Shall refers to any form of automated processing of personal data consisting of the use of personal data to evaluate certain personal aspects relating to a natural person’s performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behaviour, location or movements.

SECTION 3. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADMINISTRATIVE FOI APPEAL. An independent review of the initial determination made in response to a FOI request. Requesting parties who are dissatisfied with the response made on their initial request have a right to appeal that initial determination to an office within the agency, which will then conduct an independent review.

ANNUAL FOI REPORT.A report to be filed each year with the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) by all government agencies detailing the administration of the FOI. Annual FOI Reports contain detailed statistics on the number of FOI requests and appeals received, processed, and pending at each government office.

CONSULTATION. When a government office locates a record that contains information of interest to another office, it will ask for the views of that other agency on the disclosability of the records before any final determination is made. This process is called a “consultation.”

EXCEPTIONS. Information that should not be released and disclosed in response to a FOI request because they are protected by the Constitution, laws or jurisprudence.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI). The Executive Branch recognizes the right of the people to information on matters of public concern, and adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest, subject to the procedures and limitations provided in Executive Order No. 2. This right is indispensable to the exercise of the right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political and economic decision-making.

FOI CONTACT. The name, address and phone number at each government office where you can make a FOI request

FOI REQUEST. A written request submitted to a government office personally or by email asking for records on any topic. A FOI request can generally be made by any Filipino to any government office.

FOI RECEIVING OFFICE. The primary contact at each agency where the requesting party can call and ask questions about the FOI process or the pending FOI request.

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED INFORMATION. Info released in response to a FOI request that the agency determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records.

FULL DENIAL. When the DEPARTMENT or any of its office, bureau or agency cannot release any records in response to a FOI request, because, for example, the requested information is exempt from disclosure in its entirety or no records responsive to the request could be located.

FULL GRANT. When a government office is able to disclose all records in full in response to a FOI request.

MULTI-TRACK PROCESSING. A system that divides incoming FOI requests according to their complexity so that simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more complex requests are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are processed on a first in/first out basis.

PARTIAL GRANT/PARTIAL DENIAL. When a government office is able to disclose portions of the records in response to a FOI request, but must deny other portions of the request.

PENDING REQUEST OR PENDING APPEAL. An FOI request or administrative appeal for which a government office has not yet taken final action in all respects. It captures anything that is open at a given time including requests that are well within the statutory response time.

PERFECTED REQUEST. A FOI request, which reasonably describes the records, sought and is made in accordance with the government office's regulations.

PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE. Information made publicly available by government agencies without waiting for a specific FOI request. Government agencies now post on their websites a vast amount of material concerning their functions and mission.

PROCESSED REQUEST OR PROCESSED APPEAL. The number of requests or appeals where the agency has completed its work and sent a final response to the requester.

RECEIVED REQUEST OR RECEIVED APPEAL. An FOI request or administrative appeal that an agency has received within a fiscal year.

REFERRAL. When a government office locates a record that originated with, or is of otherwise primary interest to another agency, it will forward that record to the other agency to process the record and to provide the final determination directly to the requester. This process is called a "referral."

SIMPLE REQUEST. An FOI request that an agency anticipates will involve a small volume of material or which will be able to be processed relatively quickly.

SECTION 4. PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

While providing for access to information, the DEPARTMENT shall afford full protection to a person's right to privacy, as follows:

- a. The DEPARTMENT shall ensure that personal information, particularly sensitive personal information, in its custody or under its control is disclosed only as permitted by existing laws;
- b. The DEPARTMENT shall protect personal information in its custody or under its control by making reasonable security arrangements against unauthorized access, leaks or premature disclosure;
- c. The FRO, FDM, or any employee or official who has access, whether authorized or unauthorized, to personal information in the custody of the DEPARTMENT, shall not disclose that information except as authorized by existing laws.

SECTION 5. STANDARD PROCEDURE *(See Annex "D" for flowchart)*

1. Receipt of Request for Information.

1.1 The FOI Receiving Officer (FRO) shall receive the request for information from the requesting party and check compliance of the following requirements:

- The request must be in writing;
- The request shall state the name and contact information of the requesting party, as well as provide valid proof of identification or authorization; and
- The request shall reasonably describe the information requested, and the reason for, or purpose of, the request for information. (See **Annex "E"**)

The request can be made through email, provided that the requesting party shall attach in the email a scanned copy of the FOI application request, and a copy of a duly recognized government ID with photo.

1.2 In case the requesting party is unable to make a written request, because of illiteracy or due to being a person with disability, he or she may make an oral request, and the FRO shall reduce it in writing.

1.3 The request shall be stamped received by the FRO, indicating the date and time of the receipt of the written request, and the name, rank, title and position of the public officer who actually received it, with a corresponding signature and a copy, furnished to the requesting party. In

case of email requests, the email shall be printed out and shall follow the procedure mentioned above, and be acknowledged by electronic mail. The FRO shall input the details of the request on the Request Tracking System and allocate a reference number.

- 1.4**The DEPARTMENT or any of its office, bureaus and agencies must respond to requests promptly, within the fifteenth (15) working day following the date of receipt of the request. A working day is any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a day which is declared a national public holiday in the Philippines. In computing for the period, Art. 13 of the New Civil Code shall be observed.

The date of receipt of the request will be either:

- a. The day on which the request is physically or electronically delivered to the government office, or directly into the email inbox of a member of staff; or
- b. If the government office has asked the requesting party for further details to identify and locate the requested information, the date on which the necessary clarification is received.

An exception to this will be where the request has been emailed to an absent member of staff, and this has generated an 'out of office' message with instructions on how to re-direct the message to another contact. Where this is the case, the date of receipt will be the day the request arrives in the inbox of that contact.

Should the requested information need further details to identify or locate, then the 15 working days will commence the day after it receives the required clarification from the requesting party.

- 2. Initial Evaluation.** After receipt of the request for information, the FRO shall evaluate the contents of the request.

- 2.1. Request relating to more than one office under the DEPARTMENT:** If a request for information is received which requires to be complied with, of different attached agencies, bureaus and offices, the FRO shall forward such request to the said attached agency, bureau and office concerned and ensure that it is well coordinated and monitor its compliance. The FRO shall also clear with the respective FROs of such agencies, bureaus and offices that they will only provide the specific information that relates to their agencies, bureaus and offices.

2.2. Requested information is not in the custody of the DEPARTMENT or any of its attached agencies, bureaus and offices: If the requested information is not in the custody of the DEPARTMENT or any of its attached agencies, bureaus and offices, following referral and discussions with the FDM, the FRO shall undertake the following steps:

- If the records requested refer to another department, the request will be immediately transferred to such appropriate DEPARTMENT through the most expeditious manner and the transferring office must inform the requesting party that the information is not held within the 15 working day limit. The 15 working day requirement for the receiving office commences the day after it receives the request.
- If the records refer to an office not within the coverage of E.O. No. 2, the requesting party shall be advised accordingly and provided with the contact details of that office, if known.

2.3. Requested information is already posted and available on-line: Should the information being requested is already posted and publicly available in the DEPARTMENT website (da.gov.ph), data.gov.ph or foi.gov.ph, the FRO shall inform the requesting party of the said fact and provide them the website link where the information is posted.

2.4. Requested information is substantially similar or identical to the previous request: Should the requested information be substantially similar or identical to a previous request by the same requester, the request shall be denied. However, the FRO shall inform the applicant of the reason of such denial.

3. Transmittal of Request by the FRO to the FDM: After receipt of the request for information, the FRO shall evaluate the information being requested, and notify the FDM of such request. The copy of the request shall be forwarded to such FDM within one (1) day from receipt of the written request. The FRO shall record the date, time and name of the FDM who received the request in a record book with the corresponding signature of acknowledgement of receipt of the request.

4. Role of FDM in processing the request: Upon receipt of the request for information from the FRO, the FDM shall assess and clarify the request if necessary. He or she shall make all necessary steps to locate and retrieve the information requested. The FDM shall ensure that the complete information requested be submitted to the FRO within 10 days upon receipt of such request.

The FRO shall note the date and time of receipt of the information from the FDM and report to the DEPARTMENT Secretary or the designated Undersecretary or Assistant Secretary, or Heads of agencies, bureaus and offices, in case the submission is beyond the 10-day period.

If the FDM needs further details to identify or locate the information, he shall, through the FRO, seek clarification from the requesting party. The clarification shall stop the running of the 15 working day period and will commence the day after it receives the required clarification from the requesting party.

If the FDM determines that a record contains information of interest to another office, the FDM shall consult with the agency concerned on the disclosability of the records before making any final determination.

5. Role of FRO to transmit the information to the requesting party:

Upon receipt of the requested information from the FDM, the FRO shall collate and ensure that the information is complete. He shall attach a cover/transmittal letter signed by the DEPARTMENT Secretary or the designated Undersecretary or Assistant Secretary, or Heads of agencies, bureaus and offices concerned and ensure the transmittal of such to the requesting party within 15 working days upon receipt of the request for information.

6. Request for an Extension of Time: If the information requested requires extensive search of the government's office records facilities, examination of voluminous records, the occurrence of fortuitous events or other analogous cases, the FDM should inform the FRO.

The FRO shall inform the requesting party of the extension, setting forth the reasons for such extension. In no case shall the extension exceed twenty (20) working days on top of the mandated fifteen (15) working days to act on the request, unless exceptional circumstances warrant a longer period.

7. Notice to the Requesting Party of the Approval/Denial of the Request:

Once the DM approved or denied the request, he shall immediately notify the FRO who shall prepare the response to the requesting party either in writing or by email. All actions on FOI requests, whether approval or denial, shall pass through the DEPARTMENT Secretary or any of his designated Undersecretaries or Assistant Secretaries for final approval.

8. Approval of Request: In case of approval, the FRO shall ensure that all records that have been retrieved and considered be checked for possible exemptions, prior to actual release. The FRO shall prepare the letter or

email informing the requesting party within the prescribed period that the request was granted and be directed to pay the applicable fees, if any.

- 9. Denial of Request:** In case of denial of the request wholly or partially, the FRO shall, within the prescribed period, notify the requesting party of the denial in writing. The notice shall clearly set forth the ground or grounds for denial and the circumstances on which the denial is based. Failure to notify the requesting party of the action taken on the request within the period herein provided shall be deemed a denial of the request to information. All denials on FOI requests shall pass through the Office of the DEPARTMENT Secretary or to his designated Undersecretary or Assistant Secretary.

SECTION 6. REMEDIES IN CASE OF DENIAL

A person whose request for access to information has been denied may avail himself of the remedy set forth below:

1. Administrative FOI Appeal to the DEPARTMENT Central Appeals and Review Committee: Provided, that the written appeal must be filed by the same requesting party within fifteen (15) calendar days from the notice of denial or from the lapse of the period to respond to the request.
 - a. Denial of the Appeal by the Heads of the DEPARTMENT attached agencies, bureaus and offices may be appealed by filing a written appeal to the DEPARTMENT Central Appeals and Review Committee within fifteen (15) calendar days from the notice of denial or from the lapse of the period to respond to the request.
 - b. The appeal shall be decided by the DEPARTMENT Secretary upon the recommendation of the Central Appeals and Review Committee within thirty (30) working days from the filing of said written appeal. Failure to decide within the 30-day period shall be deemed a denial of the appeal.
 - c. The denial of the Appeal by the DEPARTMENT Secretary or the lapse of the period to respond to the request may be Appealed further to the Office of the President under Administrative Order No. 22, s. 2011.
2. Upon exhaustion of administrative FOI appeal remedies, the requesting party may file the appropriate judicial action in accordance with the Rules of Court.

SECTION 7. REQUEST TRACKING SYSTEM

The DEPARTMENT shall establish a system to trace the status of all requests for information received by it, which may be paper-based, on-line or both.

SECTION 8. FEES

1. **No Request Fee.** The DEPARTMENT shall not charge any fee for accepting requests for access to information.
2. **Reasonable Cost of Reproduction and Copying of the Information:** The FRO shall immediately notify the requesting party in case there shall be a reproduction and copying fee in order to provide the information. Such fee shall be the actual amount spent by the DEPARTMENT in providing the information to the requesting party. The schedule of fees shall be posted by the DEPARTMENT.
3. **Exemption from Fees:** The DEPARTMENT may exempt any requesting party from payment of fees, upon request stating the valid reason why such requesting party shall not pay the fee.

SECTION 9. ADMINISTRATIVE LIABILITY

1. **Non-compliance with FOI.** Failure to comply with the provisions of this Manual shall be a ground for the following administrative penalties:
 - a. 1st Offense - Reprimand;
 - b. 2nd Offense - Suspension of one (1) to thirty (30) days; and
 - c. 3rd Offense - Dismissal from the service.
2. **Procedure.** The Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service shall be applicable in the disposition of cases under this Manual.
3. **Provisions for More Stringent Laws, Rules and Regulations.** Nothing in this Manual shall be construed to derogate from any law, any rules, or regulation prescribed by anybody or agency, which provides for more stringent penalties.

ANNEX "A"



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 02

**OPERATIONALIZING 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 AND PROVIDING GUIDELINES
THEREFOR**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 28, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest, subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law;

WHEREAS, Section 7, Article III of the Constitution guarantees the right of the people to information on matters of public concern;

WHEREAS, the incorporation of this right in the Constitution is a recognition of the fundamental role of free and open exchange of information in a democracy, meant to enhance transparency and accountability in government official acts, transactions, or decisions;

WHEREAS, the Executive Branch recognizes the urgent need to operationalize these Constitutional provisions;

WHEREAS, the President, under Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution, has control over all executive departments, bureaus and offices, and the duty to ensure that the laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (R.A. 10173), including its Implementing Rules and Regulations, strengthens the fundamental human right of privacy and of communication while ensuring the free flow of information to promote innovation and growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

SECTION 1. Definition. For the purpose of this Executive Order, the following terms shall mean:

- (a) "Information" shall mean any records, documents, papers, reports, letters, contracts, minutes and transcripts of official meetings, maps, books, photographs, data, research materials, films, sound and video recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data, computer-stored data, or any other like or similar data or materials recorded, stored or archived in whatever format, whether offline or online, which are made, received, or kept in or under the control and custody of any government office pursuant to law, executive order, and rules and regulations or in connection with the performance or transaction of official business by any government office.
- (b) "Official record/records" shall refer to information produced or received by a public officer or employee, or by a government office in an official capacity or pursuant to a public function or duty.
- (c) "Public record/records" shall include information required by laws, executive orders, rules, or regulations to be entered, kept and made publicly available by a government office.

SECTION 2. Coverage. This order shall cover all government offices under the Executive Branch, including but not limited to the national government and all its offices, departments, bureaus, and instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, and state universities and colleges. Local government units (LGUs) are enjoined to observe and be guided by this Order.

SECTION 3. Access to Information. Every Filipino shall have 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 used as basis for policy development.

SECTION 4. Exception. Access to information shall be denied when the information falls under any of the exceptions enshrined in the Constitution, existing laws or jurisprudence.

The Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General are hereby directed to prepare an inventory of such exceptions and submit the same to the Office of the President within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of effectivity of this Order.

The Office of the President shall thereafter immediately circularize the inventory of exceptions for the guidance of all government offices and instrumentalities covered by this Order and the general public.

Said inventory of exceptions shall periodically be updated to properly reflect any change in existing law and jurisprudence and the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General are directed to update the inventory of exceptions as

the need to do so arises, for circularization as hereinabove stated.

SECTION 5. Availability of SALN. Subject to the provisions contained in Sections 3 and 4 of this Order, all public officials are reminded of their obligation to file and make available for scrutiny their Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations, and the spirit and letter of this Order.

SECTION 6. Application and Interpretation. There shall be a legal presumption in favor of access to information, public records and official records. No request for information shall be denied unless it clearly falls under any of the exceptions listed in the inventory or updated inventory of exceptions circularized by the Office of the President as provided in Section 4 hereof.

The determination of the applicability of any of the exceptions to the request shall be the responsibility of the Head of the Office which has custody or control of the information, public record or official record, or of the responsible central or field officer duly designated by him in writing.

In making such determination, the Head of the Office or his designated officer shall exercise reasonable diligence to ensure that no exception shall be used or availed of to deny any request for information or access to public records or official records if the denial is intended primarily and purposely to cover up a crime, wrongdoing, graft or corruption.

SECTION 7. Protection of Privacy. While providing access to information, public records, and official records, responsible officials shall afford full protection to an individual's right to privacy as follows:

- (a) Each government office per Section 2 hereof shall ensure that personal information in its custody or under its control is disclosed or released only if it is material or relevant to the subject matter of the request and its disclosure is permissible under this Order or existing laws, rules or regulations;
- (b) Each government office must protect personal information in its custody or control by making reasonable security arrangements against leaks or premature disclosure of personal information which unduly exposes the individual whose personal information is requested to vilification, harassment, or any other wrongful acts; and
- (c) Any employee or official of a government office per Section 2 hereof who has access, authorized or unauthorized, to personal information in the custody of the office must not disclose that information except when authorized under this Order or pursuant to existing laws, rules or regulations.

SECTION 8. People's Freedom of Information (FOI) Manual. For the effective implementation of this Order, every government office is directed to prepare within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the effectivity of this Order, its

own People's FOI Manual, which shall include, among others, the following information:

- (a) The location and contact information of the head, regional, provincial, and field offices, and other established places where the public can submit requests to obtain information;
- (b) The person or officer responsible for receiving requests for information;
- (c) The procedure for the filing and processing of the request, as provided in the succeeding Section 9 of this Order;
- (d) The standard forms for the submission of requests and for the proper acknowledgment of such requests;
- (e) The process for the disposition of requests;
- (f) The procedure for administrative appeal of any denial of request for access to information; and
- (g) The schedule of applicable fees.

SECTION 9. Procedure. The following procedure shall govern the filing and processing of requests for access to information:

- (a) Any person who requests access to information shall submit a written request to the government office concerned. The request shall state the name and contact information of the requesting party, provide valid proof of his identification or authorization, reasonably describe the information requested, and the reason for, or purpose of, the request for information: *Provided*, that no request shall be denied or refused acceptance unless the reason for the request is contrary to law, existing rules and regulations, or it is one of the exceptions contained in the inventory of exceptions as hereinabove provided.
- (b) The public official receiving the request shall provide reasonable assistance, free of charge, to enable all requesting parties, particularly those with special needs, to comply with the request requirements under this Section.
- (c) The request shall be stamped by the government office, indicating the date and time of receipt and the name, rank, title or position of the receiving public officer or employee with the corresponding signature, and a copy thereof furnished to the requesting party. Each government office shall establish a system to trace the status of all requests for information received by it.
- (d) The government office shall respond to a request fully compliant with the requirements of sub-section (a) hereof as soon as practicable but not exceeding fifteen (15) working days from the receipt thereof. The response mentioned above refers to the decision of the office concerned to grant or deny access to the information requested.
- (e) The period to respond may be extended whenever the information requested requires extensive search of the government office's records facilities, examination of voluminous records, the occurrence of fortuitous events or other analogous cases. The government office shall

records management system that facilitates easy identification, retrieval and communication of information to the public.

SECTION 15. Administrative Liability. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Order may be a ground for administrative and disciplinary sanctions against any erring public officer or employee as provided under existing laws or regulations.

SECTION 16. Implementing Details. All government offices in the Executive Branch are directed to formulate their respective implementing details taking into consideration their mandates and the nature of information in their custody or control, within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Order.

SECTION 17. Separability Clause. If any section or part of this Order is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

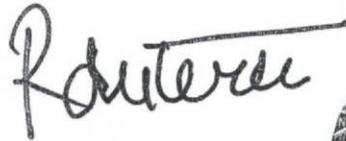
SECTION 18. Repealing Clause. All orders, rules and regulations, issuances or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly: *Provided*, that the provisions of Memorandum Circular No. 78 (s. 1964), as amended, shall not be deemed repealed pending further review.

SECTION 19. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done, in the City of Manila, this 23rd day of July in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Sixteen.

By the President:


SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary





CERTIFIED COPY:


MARIANITO M. DIMAANDAL
DIRECTOR IV 7-25-2016
MALACANANG RECORDS OFFICE

ANNEX “B”

FOI Receiving Officers of DEPARTMENT and attached agencies

Name of Agency	Location of FOI Receiving Office	Contact Details	Assigned FOI Receiving Officer
Department of Agriculture (Central Office)	G/F DA Bldg. Agriculture and Fisheries Information Division (AFID) Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City	9204080 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 2158 cherylsuarez@yahoo.com cherylsuarez@gmail.com	Cheryl C. Suarez
REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICERS			
Department of Agriculture - CAR	BPI Complex, Guisad, Baguio City	(074) 422-5795 rafid.dacar@gmail.com	Aida A. Pagtan
Department of Agriculture – RFU I	San Fernando City, La Union	(072) 242-1045 888-0341 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 4111 rafis.ilocos@gmail.com da_rafid1@yahoo.com	Vida V. Cacal
Department of Agriculture – RFU II	Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	(078) 304-0562 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 4209 da_rfu2000@yahoo.com hatabbun@yahoo.com	Hector U. Tabbun
Department of Agriculture – RFU III	Berzon Bldg., San Fernando City, Pampanga	(045) 961-1209 961-3472 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 4309 info_darfu3@yahoo.com gollum1021@yahoo.com rfo3.da@gmail.com	Ozanne Ono Ocampo-Allas
Department of Agriculture – RFU IV-A	BPI Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City	(632) 928-6465 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 4429 p_bulanhagui@yahoo.com darfu4arafid@gmail.com	Patria T. Bulanhagui

Department of Agriculture – MIMAROPA	Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City	(632) 920-2044 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 4408 sanfelipeclaire@yahoo.com	Clariza M. San Felipe
Department of Agriculture – RFU V	San Agustin, Pili, Camarines	(054) 475-5113 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 4505	Emily B. Bordado

	Sur	emilybordado@yahoo.com darafid5@yahoo.com	
Department of Agriculture – RFU VI	Port San Pedro, Iloilo City	(033) 337-9092 3379659 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 4621 da_rafid6@yahoo.com	James Earl E. Ogatis
Department of Agriculture – RFU VII	Mandaue, Experiments Station, Maguikay, Mandaue City	(032) 253-8383 268-2311 to 14 268-3063 268-5187 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 4709 chechemdv@yahoo.com	Cheryl Dela Victoria
Department of Agriculture – RFU VIII	Kanhuraw Hill, Tacloban City	(053) 321-0023 325-7242 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 4819 rafid_da8@yahoo.com.ph francis_ross15@yahoo.com	Francisco C. Rosaroso
Department of Agriculture – RFU IX	Lenienza, Pagadian City, Zamboanga	(062) 991-3190 991-2594 991-2715 Pagadian: (062) 215-4068 ytabaquero@yahoo.com	Yvette T. Avellaneda
Department of Agriculture – RFU X	A Luna Street, Cagayan de Oro City	(088) 856-2753 to 55 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 1009 rafid_10@yahoo.com	Angelilah T. Cabig
Department of Agriculture – RFU XI	Bangoy St., Davao City	(082) 226-3625 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 1153 noprovido@yahoo.com darfuxirafid@gmail.com	Noel T. Provido
Department of Agriculture – RFU XII	CSA Bldg., Gen. Santos Drive, Koronodal City	(083) 520-0629 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 1209 (083) 421-3789 rafid_da12@yahoo.com	Edgar Allan G. Pasaol

Department of Agriculture – CARAGA	Butuan City	(085) 342-4092 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 117 empress262002@yahoo.com dacaraga@yahoo.com	Emmylou T. Presilda
Department of Agriculture – ARMM	ORG Complex, Cotabato City	(064) 421-1396 da_dhigs@yahoo.com	Kadiguia R. Abdullah
BUREAUS			
Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)	BAEX Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City	929-8541 (632) 9298541 to 54 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 3000 acjarceo@yahoo.com	Antonieta J. Arceo
Bureau of Agriculture and	BPI Cmpd., Visayas ave.,	920-6131 455-0031	Rosemarie V. Calibo

Fisheries Products Standard (BAFPS)	Diliman, Quezon City	 r_calibo@yahoo.com bafpsorganic@gmail.com	
Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)	Visayas ave. Diliman, Quezon City	926-6883 928-2743 aiycasa03499@gmail.com	Aileen F. Casa
Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)	RDMC Bldg., Visayas Ave., Diliman, Q.C.	928-8505 920-0226 rdelacruz@bar.gov.ph mygulch@gmail.com	Rita D. Dela Cruz
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)	PCA Compound, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Q.C	929-8390 929-5855 454-5863 naze_cb@yahoo.com	Nazario C. Briguera
Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)	692 San Andres St., Malate, Manila	523-6757 524-0801 bpi.information@yahoo.com buplant@yahoo.com	Lolinnie Eugenio
Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)	BSWM Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Q.C.	332-9534 bswmclientcenter@yahoo.com	Elizabeth Hernando

ATTACHED AGENCY			
Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC)	3F Agustin Bldg., Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City	634-3326 634-3321 636-3393 ejguinto@acpc.gov.ph info@acpc.gov.ph	Emmalyn J. Guinto
Phil. Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFida)	2/F DA New Bldg. Diliman, Quezon City	4414081 (632) 9288756 to 65 loc. 2659/2660 leaf_cotton@yahoo.com	Orlando Cocal
National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)	BAI Comp., Visayas Ave., Diliman, Q.C	924-3118 924-7980 bet_riguer@yahoo.com	Roberta L. Riguer
Philippine Carabao Center (PCC)	Maharlika Highway, CLSU Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	(044) 456-0731 to 33 Manila: 926-7707 (044) 456-0730 livestockbiotech@gmail.com rowena.galangbumanlag@gmail.com	Khrizie Evert M. Padre
Philippine Council Agricultural and Fishery (PCAF)	DA Bldg., Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City	926-2241 pcaf.da@gmail.com starvillatulay@yahoo.com.ph pcaf.pmkmd@gmail.com	Estrella Tulay
Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and	CLSU Comp., Science City of Muñoz, Nueva	(044) 456-0282 4560287	Dr. Rodolfo P. Estigoy
Mechanization (PhilMech)	Ecija	estigoyrp@yahoo.com	
ATTACHED CORPORATION			
National Dairy Authority (NDA)	BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Q.C	(632) 926-0733 chingleumanta@yahoo.com ndaostaff2016@gmail.com karenjoymanalo@yahoo.com	Marilo M. Pakaew
National Tobacco Administration (NTA)	Panay Avenue Cor. Scout Reyes St. Quezon City	(632) 372-3188 nta_oad@yahoo.com nmevaldez@gmail.com	Neyo Valdez
Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC)	NIA Compound, EDSA, Q.C	941-1325 aeretamar@pcic.gov.ph administrative@pcic.gov.ph	Allan E. Retamar

Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA)	2/F PCA Annex Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Q.C	925-6146 pfdapis@yahoo.com	Henry Umil Jr.
Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)	Maligaya, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	(044) 456-0112 (044) 456-0354 ja.manalo4@philrice.gov.ph	Guadalupe C. Miranda
Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR)	34 Panay Avenue, Quezon City	376-4790 marubylumongsod@yahoo.com pio_quedancor@yahoo.com	Ma. Ruby G. Lumongsod
Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)	Philippine Sugar Center Bldg. North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City	(02) 929-6137 marujazz@gmail.com	Rosemarie S. Gumera

ANNEX "C"

LIST OF EXCEPTIONS

INVENTORY OF EXCEPTIONS TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2 (S. 2016)

Exceptions to Right of Access to Information

For the guidance of all government offices and instrumentalities covered by EO No. 2 (s. 2016) and the general public, the following are the exceptions to the right of access to information, as recognized by the Constitution, existing laws, or jurisprudence:¹

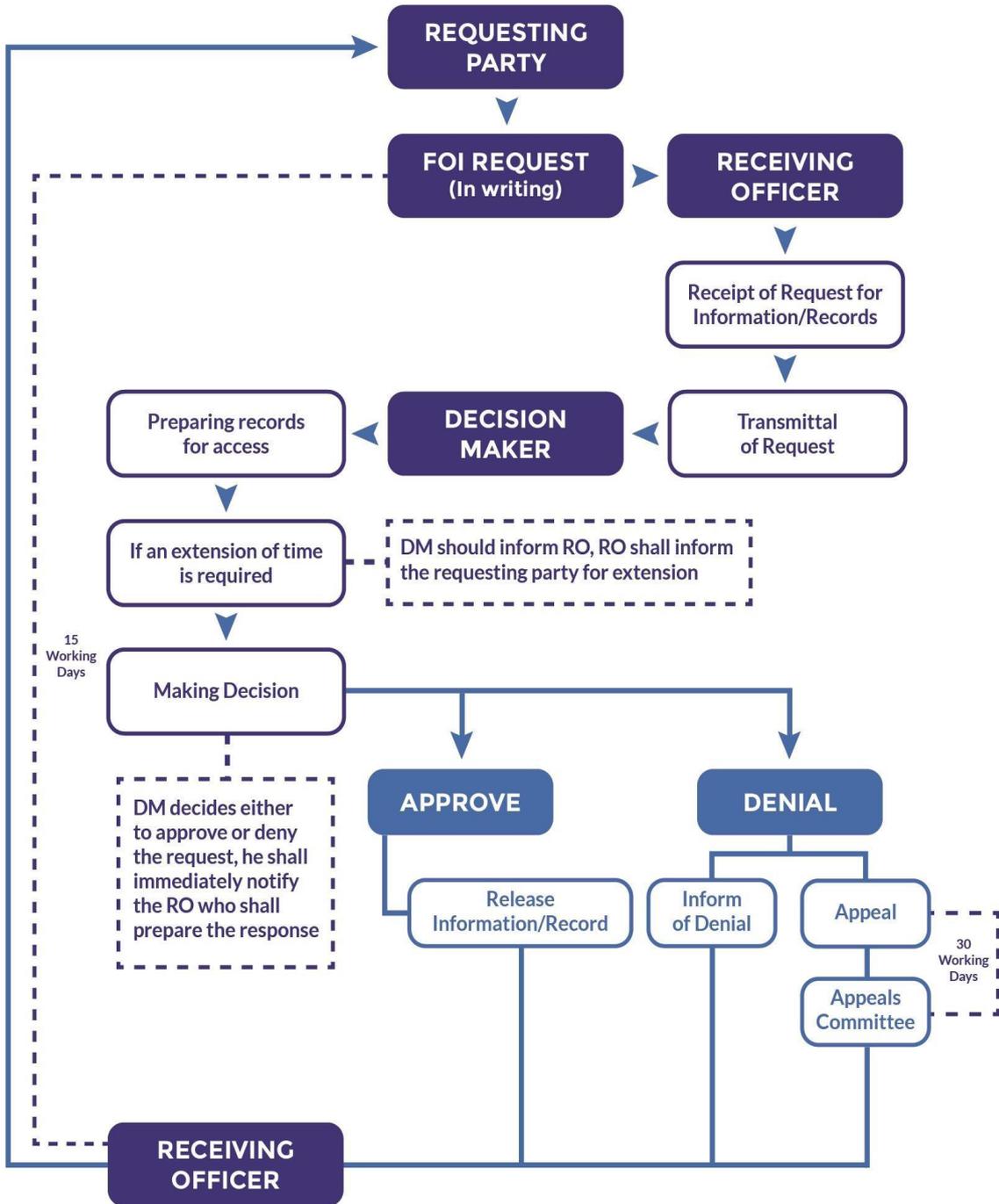
1. Information covered by Executive privilege;
2. Privileged information relating to national security, defense or international relations;
3. Information concerning law enforcement and protection of public and personal safety;
4. Information deemed confidential for the protection of the privacy of persons and certain individuals such as minors, victims of crimes, or the accused;
5. Information, documents or records known by reason of official capacity and are deemed as confidential, including those submitted or disclosed by entities to government agencies, tribunals, boards, or officers, in relation to the performance of their functions, or to inquiries or investigation conducted by them in the exercise of their administrative, regulatory or quasi-judicial powers;
6. Prejudicial premature disclosure;
7. Records of proceedings or information from proceedings which, pursuant to law or relevant rules and regulations, are treated as confidential or privileged;
8. Matters considered confidential under banking and finance laws, and their amendatory laws; and
9. Other exceptions to the right to information under laws, jurisprudence, rules and regulations.

¹ These exceptions only apply to governmental bodies within the control and supervision of the Executive department. Unless specifically identified, these exceptions may be invoked by all officials, officers, or employees in the Executive branch in possession of the relevant records or information.

For the complete list of the Inventory of Exceptions to Executive Order (EO) No. 2, s. 2016 issued by the Office of the Executive Secretary, you may download the softcopy at bit.ly/foipco.

ANNEX "D"

FOI Request Flow Chart



ANNEX "E"

FOI Request Form



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City 1100
Philippines

PORMULARYO NG KAHILINGAN (FOI)

FOI Request Form

TITULO NG DOKUMENTO / *(Title of the Document):*

MGA TAON/PANAHONG SAKLAW / *(Year):*

LAYUNIN / *(Purpose):*

PANGALAN / *(Name):*

CONTACT Nos.

LAGDA / *(Signature):*

PETSA / *(Date):*

TIRAHAN / *(Address):*

KATIBAYAN NG PAGKAKAKILANLAN / *(Proof of Identity):*

PARAAN NG PAGTANGGAP NG IMPORMASYON
(How would you like to receive the information?)

- Email _____
 Fax _____
 Postal Address _____
 Pick-up (*Office hours*) _____

Passport No. _____
Driver's License _____
Other _____

.....
Gawaing itinalaga kay:

_____ *(Lumagda sa ibaba ng pangalang nakalimbag)*

Petsa/Oras ng Pagkatalaga:

Taong nagpapatunay ng Gawaing Natapos:

_____ *(Lumagda sa ibaba ng pangalang nakalimbag)*

Uri ng isinagawang aksiyon:

Remarks:

Iniskedyul ni / (Received by):

FOI Receiving Officer

ANNEX “F-1”

FOI RESPONSE TEMPLATE - ANSWER

DATE

Dear _____,

Greetings!

Thank you for your request dated <insert data> under Executive Order No. 2 (s. 2016) on Freedom of Information in the Executive Branch.

Your request

You asked for <quote request exactly, unless it is too long/complicated>.

Response to your request

Your FOI request is approved. The answer to your request is <insert answer>

Thank you.

Respectfully,

FOI Receiving Officer

ANNEX “F-2”

FOI RESPONSE TEMPLATE - DOCUMENT AVAILABLE ONLINE

DATE

Dear _____,

Greetings!

Thank you for your request dated <insert data> under Executive Order No. 2 (s. 2016) on Freedom of Information in the Executive Branch.

Your request

You asked for <quote request exactly, unless it is too long/complicated>.

Response to your request

[Some/Most/All] of the information you have requested is already available online from <add details of where that specific information can be obtained e.g. data.gov.ph, foi.gov.ph or other government websites>.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to <insert name of Secretary and postal / e-mail address>. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 15 calendar days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 30 calendar days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Office of the President under Administrative Order No. 22 (s. 2011).

Thank you.

Respectfully,

FOI Receiving Officer

ANNEX “F-3”

FOI RESPONSE TEMPLATE - DOCUMENT NOT AVAILABLE

DATE

Dear _____,

Greetings!

Thank you for your request dated <insert data> under Executive Order No. 2 (s. 2016) on Freedom of Information in the Executive Branch.

Your request

You asked for <quote request exactly, unless it is too long/complicated>.

Response to your request

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance this Office does not have [some of]* the information you have requested. However, you may wish to contact <insert name of other authority/organization> at<insert contact details. Who may be able to help you. The reasons why we don't have the information are explained in the Annex to this letter.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to <insert name of Secretary and postal / e-mail address>. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 15 calendar days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 30 calendar days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Office of the President under Administrative Order No. 22 (s. 2011).

Thank you.

Respectfully,

FOI Receiving Officer

Signature: *ejguinto*
Emmalyn Guinto (Nov 16, 2020 15:11 GMT+8.75)

Email: ejguinto@acpc.gov.ph

ANNEX "F-4"

FOI RESPONSE TEMPLATE – UNDER EXCEPTIONS

DATE

Dear _____,

Greetings!

Thank you for your request dated <insert data> under Executive Order No. 2 (s. 2016) on Freedom of Information in the Executive Branch.

Your request

You asked for <quote request exactly, unless it is too long/complicated>.

Response to your request

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide [some of]* the information you have requested because an exception(s) under section(s) <insert specific section number(s) of the List of Exceptions applies to that information. The reasons why that exemption(s) applies are explained in the Annex to this letter.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to <insert name of Secretary and postal / e-mail address>. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 15 calendar days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 30 calendar days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Office of the President under Administrative Order No. 22 (s. 2011).

Thank you.

Respectfully,

FOI Receiving Officer