



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Freedom Of Information (FOI)



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI)



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Freedom Of Information (FOI)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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FOREWORD

The National Telecommunications Commission's (NTC) effective implementation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program in the last two years enabled it to become part of the eighteen most requested and performing agencies in the *eFOI* portal. The Commission's performance was duly recognized in the 2018 FOI Summit.

To institutionalize the implementation of FOI, the NTC developed a People's FOI Manual that reflects its compliance with the requirements of Executive Order (E.O.) No. 2 s. 2016 on *"Operationalizing in the Executive Branch of the People's Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies to Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service"*. The Manual identifies the responsibilities of the officials of the Commission and provides guidelines to assist the general public in dealing with requests for information. It specifies further the rules and procedures to be followed by the NTC in addressing requests for access to information.

The NTC remains steadfast in its commitment to uphold the people's constitutional right to information and institutionalizing transparency and accountability in government service.

Our Agency firmly believes that a well-informed public, coupled with a transparent government creates a strong democracy. Such openness brings back people's trust and confidence in its government.

Let us all be partners for change! Collectively adhering to the ideals of E.O. No. 2, s. 2016 can only mean building a better Philippines.



GAMALIEL A. CORDOBA
Commissioner

National Telecommunications Commission
November 25, 2019



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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 ***National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)*** in dealing with requests of information received under Executive Order (E.O.) No. 2 on Freedom of Information (FOI). (**Annex “B”**)
2. **Structure of the Manual:** This Manual shall set out the rules and procedures to be followed by the National Telecommunications Commission when a request for access to information is received. The NTC Commissioner is responsible for all actions carried out under this Manual and may delegate this responsibility to the Deputy Commissioners of NTC. The NTC Commissioner 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 National Telecommunications Commission Central Office, Regional Offices and Satellite Offices.
4. **FOI Receiving Officer:** There shall be an **FOI Receiving Officer (FRO)** designated at the National Telecommunications Commission. The FRO shall preferably come from the Public Assistance or Information Office, or its equivalent of NTC. The FRO shall hold office at Central Records Section, Ground Floor, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City.
 - a. The requesting party may make all the requests for information located at Regional Office to the appropriate Regional office.
 - b. The functions of the FRO shall include receiving on behalf of the NTC 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; and, 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:
 1. That the form is incomplete; or
 2. That the information is already disclosed in NTC’s Official Website, foi.gov.ph, or at data.gov.ph.
 - c. Regional Offices of NTC shall assign their respective FROs. (**Annex “C”**)



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5. **FOI Decision Maker:** There shall be an **FOI Decision Maker (FDM)**, designated by the NTC Commissioner, with a rank of not lower than a Division Chief 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. **NTC** 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 **NTC**.
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 Head of NTC to review and analyse the grant or denial of request of information. The Committee shall also provide expert advice to the NTC Head on the denial of such request.
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 Head of NTC may delegate such authority to any Officer not below the rank of a Director.

SECTION 2: DEFINITION OF TERMS

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 dissolvability of the records before any final determination is made. This process is called "consultation".

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.



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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 OFFICER. 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 NTC 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.

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



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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.

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.

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.

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.

PERSONAL INFORMATION. Shall refer to any information, whether recorded in a material form or not, from which the identify 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.

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.



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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.

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.”

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.

SECTION 3. PROMOTION OF OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT

1. Duty to Publish Information. *The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)* shall regularly publish, print and disseminate at no cost to the public and in an accessible form, in conjunction with Republic Act 9485, or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, and through their website, timely, true, accurate and updated key information including, but not limited to:

- a. A description of its mandate, structure, powers, functions, duties and decision-making processes;
- b. A description of the frontline services it delivers and the procedure and length of time by which they may be availed of;
- c. The names of its key officials, their powers, functions and responsibilities, and their profiles and curriculum vitae;



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- d. Work programs, development plans, investment plans, projects, performance targets and accomplishments, and budgets, revenue allotments and expenditures;
- e. Important rules and regulations, orders or decisions;
- f. Current and important database and statistics that it generates;
- g. Bidding processes and requirements; and
- h. Mechanisms or procedures by which the public may participate in or otherwise influence the formulation of policy or the exercise of its powers.

2. Accessibility of Language and Form. The **NTC** shall endeavor to translate key information into major Filipino languages and present them in popular form and means.

3. Keeping of Records. The **NTC** shall create and/or maintain in appropriate formats, accurate and reasonably complete documentation or records, policies, transactions, decisions, resolutions, enactments, actions, procedures, operations, activities, communications and documents received or filed with them and the data generated or collected.

SECTION 4. PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

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

- a. The **NTC** 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 **NTC** 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 **NTC**, shall not disclose that information except as authorized by existing laws.

SECTION 5. STANDARD PROCEDURE *(See Annex "E" 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:



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- 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 “G”**)

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 **NTC** 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



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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 NTC: If a request for information is received which requires to be complied with, of different offices, the FRO shall forward such request to the said office concerned and ensure that it is well coordinated and monitor its compliance. The FRO shall also clear with the respective FROs of offices that they will only provide the specific information that relates to their offices.

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

- If the records requested refer to another agency, the request will be immediately transferred to such appropriate agency 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 NTC website, 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



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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 records the date, time and name of the FDM who received in a record book with 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 NTC Commissioner 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 NTC Commissioner or the designated officer 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.



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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 NTC Commissioner or his designated officer 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 NTC Commissioner or to his designated officer.

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 NTC 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 request may be appealed by filing a written appeal to the NTC 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 NTC Commissioner upon the recommendation of the Central Appeals and Review Committee



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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.

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 NTC 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 NTC 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 NTC in providing the information to the requesting party. The fees shall be as follows:

Medium	Price
Per photocopied page, black ink only	PhP0.75
Per page of computer, print out, black ink only	PhP1.00
Per half page of computer print out, colored ink	PhP5.00
Per full page of computer print out, colored ink	PhP10.00
Information transmitted via email not exceeding 1 gigabyte	Free
Per DVD	PhP25.00
Others	As determined by the FOI Review Committee

3. **Exemption from Fees:** The NTC 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



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- 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.



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ANNEX "A"

FOI FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Introduction to FOI

1. What is FOI?

Freedom of Information (FOI) is the government's response to the call for transparency and full public disclosure of information. FOI is a government mechanism, which allows Filipino citizens to request any information about the government transactions and operations, provided that it shall not put into jeopardy privacy and matters of national security.

The FOI mechanism for the Executive Branch is enabled via Executive Order No. 2, series of 2016.

2. What is Executive Order No. 2 S. 2016?

Executive Order No. 2 is the enabling order for FOI. EO 2 operationalizes in the Executive Branch the People's Constitutional right to information. EO 2 also provides the State policies to full public disclosure and transparency in the public service.

EO 2 was signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on July 23, 2016.

3. Who oversees the implementation of EO 2?

The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) oversees the operation of the FOI program. PCOO serves as the coordinator of all government agencies to ensure that the FOI program is properly implemented.

Making a Request

4. Who can make an FOI request?

Any Filipino citizen can make an FOI Request. As a matter of policy, requestors are required to present proof of identification.



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5. What can I ask for under EO on FOI?

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.

6. What agencies can we ask information?

An FOI request under EO 2 can be made before all government offices under the Executive Branch, including government owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) and state universities and colleges (SUCs).

7. How do I make an FOI request?

- a. The requestor is to fill up a request form and submits to the agency's Receiving Officer. The Receiving Officer shall validate the request and logs it accordingly on the FOI tracker.
- b. If deemed necessary, the Receiving Officer may clarify the request on the same day it was filed, such as specifying the information requested, and providing other assistance needed by the Requestor.
- c. The request is forwarded to the Decision Maker for proper assessment. The Decision Maker shall check if the agency holds the information requested, if it is already accessible, or if the request is a repeat of any previous request.
- d. The request shall be forwarded to the officials involved to locate the requested information.
- e. Once all relevant information is retrieved, officials will check if any exemptions apply, and will recommend appropriate response to the request.
- f. If necessary, the head of the agency shall provide clearance to the response.
- g. The agency shall prepare the information for release, based on the desired format of the Requestor. It shall be sent to the Requestor depending on the receipt preference.

8. How much does it cost to make an FOI request?

There are no fees to make a request. But the agency may charge a reasonable fee for necessary costs, including costs of printing, reproduction and/or photocopying.



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9. What will I receive in response to an FOI request?

You will be receiving a response either granting or denying your request. If the request is granted, the information requested will be attached, using a format that you specified. Otherwise, the agency will explain why the request was denied.

10. How long it will take before I get a response.

It is mandated that all replies shall be sent fifteen (15) working days after the receipt of the request. The agency will be sending a response, informing of an extension of processing period no longer than twenty (20) working days, should the need arise.

11. What if I never get a response?

If the agency fails to provide a response within the required fifteen (15) working days, the Requestor may write an appeal letter to the Central Appeals and Review Committee within fifteen (15) working days from the lapse of required response period. The appeal shall be decided within thirty (30) working days by the Central Appeals and Review Committee.

If all administrative remedies are exhausted and no resolution is provided, requestors may file the appropriate case in the proper courts in accordance with the Rules of Court.

12. What will happen if my request is not granted?

If you are not satisfied with the response, the Requestor may write an appeal letter to the Central Appeals and Review Committee within fifteen (15) working days from the lapse of required response period. The appeal shall be decided within thirty (30) working days by the Central Appeals and Review Committee.

If all administrative remedies are exhausted and no resolution is provided, requestors may file the appropriate case in the proper courts in accordance with the Rules of Court.



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ANNEX "B"

MALACAÑANG 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 TO FULL
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND
PROVIDING GUIDELINES THEREFOR**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 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;



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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:

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 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.
- (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, offices, and instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, and state universities and colleges. Local government units (LGUs) are encouraged 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 to 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 law 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.



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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 provided in the preceding section.

The determination of the applicability of any of the exceptions to the request shall be the responsibility of the Head of the Office, which is in custody or control of the information, public record or official record, or 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 the right to privacy of the individual 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 law, rules or regulations;



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(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.

(c) Any employee, official or director 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 regulation.

SECTION 8. People's Freedom to 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 provisions:

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

SECTION 9. Procedure. The following procedure shall govern the filing and processing of request 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 or updated inventory of exception as hereinabove provided.



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(b) The public official receiving the request shall provide reasonable assistance, free of charge, to enable, to enable all requesting parties and 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 and 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 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 agency or 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 cases or other analogous cases. The government office shall notify the person making the request of the extension, setting forth the reasons for such extension. In no case shall the extension go beyond twenty (20) working days unless exceptional circumstances warrant a longer period.

(f) Once a decision is made to grant the request, the person making the request shall be notified of such decision and directed to pay any applicable fees.

SECTION 10. Fees. Government offices shall not charge any fee for accepting requests for access to information. They may, however, charge a reasonable fee to reimburse necessary costs, including actual costs of reproduction and copying of the information required, subject to existing rules and regulations. In no case shall the applicable fees be so onerous as to defeat the purpose of this Order.

SECTION 11. Identical or Substantially Similar Requests. The government office shall not be required to act upon an unreasonable subsequent identical or substantially similar request from the same requesting party whose request from the same requesting party whose request has already been previously granted or denied by the same government office.

SECTION 12. Notice of Denial. If the government office decides to deny the request, in whole or in part, it shall as soon as practicable, in any case within fifteen (15) working days from the receipt of the request, notify the requesting party 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



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request within the period herein stipulated shall be deemed a denial of the request for access to information.

SECTION 13. Remedies in Cases of Denial of Request for Access to Information.

(a) Denial of any request for access to information may be appealed to the person or office next higher in the authority, following the procedure mentioned in Section 9 of this Order: Provided, that the written appeal must be filed by the same person making the request within fifteen (15) working days from the notice of denial or from the lapse of the relevant period to respond to the request.

(b) The appeal be decided by the person or office next higher in authority within thirty (30) working days from the filing of said written appeal. Failure of such person or office to decide within the afore-stated period shall be deemed a denial of the appeal.

(c) Upon exhaustion of administrative appeal remedies, the requesting part may file the appropriate case in the proper courts in accordance with the Rules of Court.

SECTION 14. Keeping of Records. Subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations, government offices shall create and/or maintain accurate and reasonably complete records of important information in appropriate formats, and implement a 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 or 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,



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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.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**
President of the Philippines

By the President:

(Sgd.) **SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA**
Executive Secretary



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ANNEX “C”

FOI Receiving Officers of National Telecommunications Commission

Name of Office	Location of FOI Receiving Office	Email Address	Contact Details	FOI Receiving Officers/Alternate
NTC-Central Office	BIR Rd., East-Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City	foiofficerco@ntc.gov.ph	02-8924-4018 02-8924-4040	FRO Ms. Divina N. Daquioag ALTERNATE Ms. Lourdes La-Armi A. Dela Cruz
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION	NTC Bldg., BIR Road., East Triangle, Diliman Quezon City	ntcnrc@yahoo.com ntcnrc@ntc.gov.ph	02-8924-4072 02-8924-4010	FRO Engr. Nomeriano R. Obiña III ALTERNATE Engr. Christian Paul Obligar
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (CAR)	Leonard Wood Rd., Pacdal Circle, Baguio City	ntc_car@yahoo.com	074-304-4876 074-442-9342	FRO Engr. Joviemay C. Baula-Tangday ALTERNATE Karol Graham B. Caparaz
REGION 1 (ILOCOS REGION)	Airport Cmpd., California Ave., San Francisco St., San F'do, La Union	ntc.ilocosregion@ntc.gov.ph	072-607-5654 072-607-5656	FRO Atty. Wyndel P. Albano ALTERNATE Engr. Myrtie P. Vinluan
REGION 2 (CAGAYAN VALLEY)	JP Enrile Blvd., CarigTuguegarao, Cagayan	ntcr2@yahoo.com myra.deguzman@ntc.gov.ph joanamarie.capalungan@ntc.gov.ph	078-304-1538 078-377-0724	FRO Atty. Myra C. De Guzman ALTERNATE Engr. Joanna Marie Capulungan
REGION 3 (CENTRAL LUZON)	Gov't Center, Bo. Maimpis, San Fernando, Pampanga	ntcr3@yahoo.com abigail.dahino@ntc.gov.ph Nolytolentino24@gmail.com	045-861-7958	FRO Engr. Abigail M. Dahino ALTERNATE Manuelito R. Tolentino
REGION 4A (CALABARZON)	BaexCmpd., Bo. Bolbok Diversion Rd., Batangas City	ntcr4@yahoo.com	043-723-1246 043-723-2495	FRO Atty. JuallieLabbette Marie M. Lanting ALTERNATE Engr. Jasmin A. Rapada
REGION 4B (MIMAROPA)	EGS Bldg., Bonifacio St., Calapan City	aileen.dotg@ntc.gov.ph paularose.badoles@ntc.gov.ph	043-441-3225	FRO Engr. Aileen R. Dotig ALTERNATE Engr. Paula Rose B. Badoles
REGION 5 (BICOL REGION)	Gov't Center Site, Rawis, Legaspi City, Albay	ntcv_legazpi@yahoo.com	052-482-1039	FRO Atty. Judy Ann N. Bilangel ALTERNATE Engr. Joseph N. Bartolome
REGION 6 (WESTERN VISAYAS)	Balangtang, Jaro, Iloilo City	ntcr6@yahoo.com	033-320-2251 033-508-5353	FRO 1 Atty. Virgil R. Tan ALTERNATE Engr. Carmille Caesar S. Dalumpines FRO 2 Engr. Arvin D. De Leon NTC- Bacolod Sub Office
REGION 7 (CENTRAL VISAYAS)	Wireless, Subangdaku,	ntc_vii@yahoo.com	032-422-6822 032-346-0179	FRO Atty. Allan Felix J. Macaraya Jr. ALTERNATE Engr. Bill L. Peralta

	Mandaue City, Cebu			
REGION 8 (EASTERN VISAYAS)	Army Road, 6500 Tacloban City	r8.legal@ntc.gov.ph phian.dolina@ntc.gov.ph	053-325-8519 053-523-2576	FRO Atty. Martin Ty Indic ALTERNATE Engr. Ian M. Dolina
REGION 9 (ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA)	Cabatangan Hills, Zamboanga City	ntc_region9@yahoo.com	062-955-2881 062-955-1903	FRO Atty. Ricardo H. Casimiro II
REGION 10 (NORTHERN MINDANAO)	Pelaez Blvd., Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City	region10ntc@yahoo.com francis.jarioline@ntc.gov.ph joel.lolo@ntc.gov.ph	088-858-4800 (loc 112) 088-881-4551 (loc 110)	FRO Atty. Joanne Marie D. Pacuribot ALTERNATE Engr. Francis R. Jarioline
REGION 11 (DAVAO REGION)	Quimpo Blvd., Matina, Davao City	ntcdavao@yahoo.com	082-296-0625 082-299-2614	FRO Engr. Cindy V. Cay-an
REGION 12 (SOCCSKSARGEN)	Macagba St., Brgy. Gen. Paulino Santos (Bo. 1), Koronadal City South Cotabato	ntc_region12@yahoo.com	083-228-9808 083-228-8697	FRO Atty. Clemente A Panganduyon ALTERNATE Engr. Ser Kenneth P. Cerado
REGION 13 (CARAGA)	Purok 2, Doongan Road, Butuan City	ntc13@yahoo.com reynaldo.quitag@ntc.gov.ph	085-342-8936 085-815-1499	FRO Atty. Peme J. Cavales ALTERNATE Engr. Reynaldo C. Quitag



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ANNEX "D"

LIST OF EXCEPTIONS

(Refer to Memorandum from The Executive Secretary Dated 24 November 2016)

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.

For the implementation of the exceptions to the right of access to information, the following provide the salient details and legal bases that define the extent and application of the exceptions.

1. Information covered by Executive privilege :
 - a. Presidential conversations, correspondences and discussion in closed-door Cabinet meetings; and
 - b. Matters covered by deliberative process privilege, namely:



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- i. advisory opinions, recommendations and deliberations comprising part of a process by which governmental decisions and policies are formulated or are in the exploratory stage; or information pertaining to the decision-making of executive officials; and
 - ii. information, record or documents comprising drafts of decisions, orders, rulings, policy decisions, memoranda, etc.
- 2. Privilege information relating to national security, defense or international relations:
 - a. Information, records or document that must be kept secret in the interest of national defense or security;
 - b. Diplomatic negotiations and other information required to be kept secret in the conduct of foreign affairs; and
 - c. Patent applications, the publication of which would prejudice national security and interests;
- 3. Information concerning law enforcement and protection of public and personal safety:
 - a. Investigation records compiled for law enforcement purposes or information which if written would be contained in such records, but only to the extent that the production of such records of information would –
 - i. interfere with enforcement proceedings;
 - ii. deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;
 - iii. disclose the identity of a confidential source and in the case of a record compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, confidential information furnished only by the confidential source; or
 - iv. unjustifiably disclose investigative techniques and procedures;
 - b. Informer's privilege or the privilege of the Government not to disclose the identity of a person of person who furnish information of violation of law to officers charged with the enforcement of law;
 - c. When disclose of information would put the life and safety of an individual in imminent danger;
 - d. Any information given by informants leading to the recovery of carnapped vehicles and apprehension to the persons charged with carnapping; and
 - e. All proceedings involving application for admission into the Witness Protection Program and the action taken thereon;



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4. Information deemed confidential for the protection of the privacy of persons and certain individuals such as minor, victims of crimes, or the accused. These include:

- a. Information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, personal information or records, including sensitive personal information, birth records, school records, or medical or health records;

Sensitive personal information as defined under the Data Privacy Act of 2012 refers to personal information:

- (1) about an individual's race, ethnic origin marital status, age, color, and religious, philosophical or political affiliations;
- (2) about an individual's health, education, genetic or sexual life of a person, or to any proceeding for any offense committed or alleged to have been committed by such person, the disposal of such proceedings, or the sentence of any court of 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.

However, personal information may be disclosed to the extent that the requested information is shown to be a matter of public concern or interest, shall not meddle with or disturb the private life of family relations of the individual and it is not prohibited by any law or regulation, Any disclosure of personal information shall in accordance with the principles of transparency, legitimate purpose and proportionality.

Disclosure of personal information about any individual who is or was an officer or employee of a government institution shall be allowed, provided that such information relates to the position or functions of the individual, including: (1) the fact that the individual is or was an officer or employee of the government institution; (2) the title, business address and office telephone number of the individual; (3) the classification, salary range and responsibilities of the position held by the individual; and (4) the name of the individual on a document prepared by the individual in the course of employment with the government;

- b. Source of any news report of information appearing in newspapers, magazines or periodical of general circulation obtained in confidence, and
- c. Records of proceedings and processes deemed confidential by law for the



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privacy and /or protection of certain individuals, such as children, victims of crime, witnesses to crime of rehabilitated drug offenders, including those pertaining to the following:

- (1) records of child and family cases;
- (2) children in conflict with the law from initial contact until final disposition of the case;
- (3) a child who is a victim of any offense under the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009, including the name and personal circumstances of the child, Or the child's immediate family, or any other information tending to establish the child's identity;
- (4) a child witness, who is a victim of a crime, an accused of a crime, or a witness to a crime, including the name, address, telephone number, school, or other identifying information of a child of an immediate family of the child;
- (5) cases involving violence against women and their children, including the name, address, telephone number, school, business, address, employer, or other identifying information of a victim or an immediate family member, employer, or other identifying information of a victim of an immediate family member,
- (6) Trafficked persons, including their names and personal circumstances, or Any other information tending to establish the identity of the trafficked person;
- (7) Names of victims of child abuse, exploitation of discrimination;
- (8) disclosure which would result in undue and sensationalized publicity of any case involving a child in conflict with the law, child abuse, or violation of anti-trafficking of persons;
- (9) records, documents and communications of proceedings involving domestic and inter-country adoptions, including the identity of the child, natural parents and adoptive parents;
- (10) names of students who committed acts of bullying or retaliation;
- (11) first time minor (drug) offenders under suspended sentence who comply with applicable rules and regulations of the Dangerous Drugs Board and who are subsequently discharged; judicial and medical records of drug dependents under the voluntary submission program; and records of a drug dependent who was rehabilitated and discharged from treatment and rehabilitation centers under the compulsory submission program, or who was charged for violation of Section 15 (use of dangerous drugs) of the *Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002*, as amended; and
- (12) identity, status and medical records of individuals with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), as well as results of HIV/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) testing;

5. Information, documents or records known by reason of official capacity and are



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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, such as but not limited to the following:

- a. Trade secrets, intellectual property, business, commercial, financial and other proprietary information;
- b. Data furnished to statistical inquiries, surveys and censuses of the Philippine Statistics authority (PSA);
- c. Records and reports submitted to the Social security System by the employer or member;
- d. Information gathered from HIV/AIDS contact tracing and all other related health intelligence activities;
- e. Confidential information submitted to the Philippine Competition Commission prohibited from disclosure by law, including the identity of the person who provided the information under condition of anonymity;
- f. Applications and supporting documents filed pursuant to the Omnibus investments Code of 1987;
- g. Documents submitted through the Government Electronic Procurement System;
- h. Information obtained from accessing any electronic key, electronic data message, or electronic document, book, register, correspondence, information or other material pursuant to any powers conferred under the *Electronic Commerce Act of 2000*;
- i. Any confidential information supplied by the contractors in mineral agreements, and financial or technical assistance agreements pursuant to the *Philippine Mining Act of 1995* and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), during the term of the project to which it relates;



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- j. Information received by the Department of Tourism (DOT) in relation to the accreditation of accommodation establishments (such as hotels and resorts) and travel and tour agencies;
 - k. The fact that a covered transaction report to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) has been made, the contents thereof, or any information in relation thereto;
 - l. Information submitted to the Tariff Commission which is by nature confidential or submitted on a confidential basis;
 - m. Certain information and reports submitted to the Insurance Commissioner pursuant to the Insurance Code;
 - n. Information on registered cultural properties owned by private individuals
 - o. Data submitted by a higher education institution to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); and
 - p. Any secret, valuable or proprietary information of a confidential character known to a public officer, or secrets of private individuals;
6. Information of which a premature disclosure would:
- a. In case of a department, office or agency which agency regulates currencies, securities, commodities, or financial institutions, be likely to lead to significant financial speculation in currencies, securities, or commodities, or significantly endanger the stability of any financial institution; or
 - b. Be likely or significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed official action, except such department, office or agency has already disclosed to the public the content or nature of its proposed action, or where the department, office or agency is required by law to make such disclosure on its own initiative prior to taking final official action *on such* proposal.
7. Records of proceedings or information from proceedings which, pursuant to law or relevant rules and regulations, are treated as confidential or privileged, including but not limited to the following:
- a. Mediation and domestic or international arbitration proceedings, including records, evidence and the arbitral awards, pursuant to the *Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004*;
 - b. Matters involved in an Investor-State mediation;
 - c. Information and statements made at conciliation proceedings under the *Labor Code*;
 - d. Arbitration proceedings before the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission (CIAC);
 - e. Results of examinations made by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on the operations, books and records of any corporation, and all interrogatories propounded by it and the answers thereto;
 - f. Information related to investigations which are deemed confidential under the *Securities Regulations Code*;
 - g. All proceedings prior to the issuance of a cease and desist order against pre-need companies by the Insurance Commission;



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- h. Information related to the assignment of the cases to the reviewing prosecutors or the undersecretaries in cases involving violations of the *Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002*;
 - i. Investigation report and the supervision history of a probationer;
 - j. Those matters classified as confidential under the *Human Security Act of 2007*;
 - k. Preliminary investigation proceedings before the committee on decorum and investigation of government agencies; and
 - l. Those information deemed confidential or privileged pursuant to pertinent rules and regulations issued by the Supreme Court, such as information on disbarment proceedings, DNA profiles and results, or those ordered by courts to be kept confidential;
8. Matters considered confidential under banking and finance laws and their amendatory laws, such as:
- a. RA No. 1405 (*Law on Secrecy of Bank Deposits*);
 - b. RA No. 6426 (*Foreign Currency Deposit Act of the Philippines*) and relevant regulations;
 - c. RA No. 8791 (*The General Banking Law of 2000*);
 - d. RA No. 9160 (*Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001*); and
 - e. RA No. 9510 (*Credit Information System Act*);
9. Other exceptions to the right to information under laws, jurisprudence, rules and regulations, such as:
- a. Those deemed confidential pursuant to treaties, executive agreements, other international agreements, or international proceedings, such as:
 - 1. When the disclosure would prejudice legitimate commercial interest or competitive position of investor-states pursuant to investment agreements;
 - 2. Those deemed confidential or protected information pursuant to United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration and Arbitration Rules (UNCITRAL Transparency Rules); and
 - 3. Refugee proceedings and documents under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, as implemented by DOJ Circular No. 58;
 - b. Testimony from a government official, unless pursuant to a court or legal order;
 - c. When the purpose for the request of Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth is any of the following:
 - 1. any purpose contrary to morals or public policy; or



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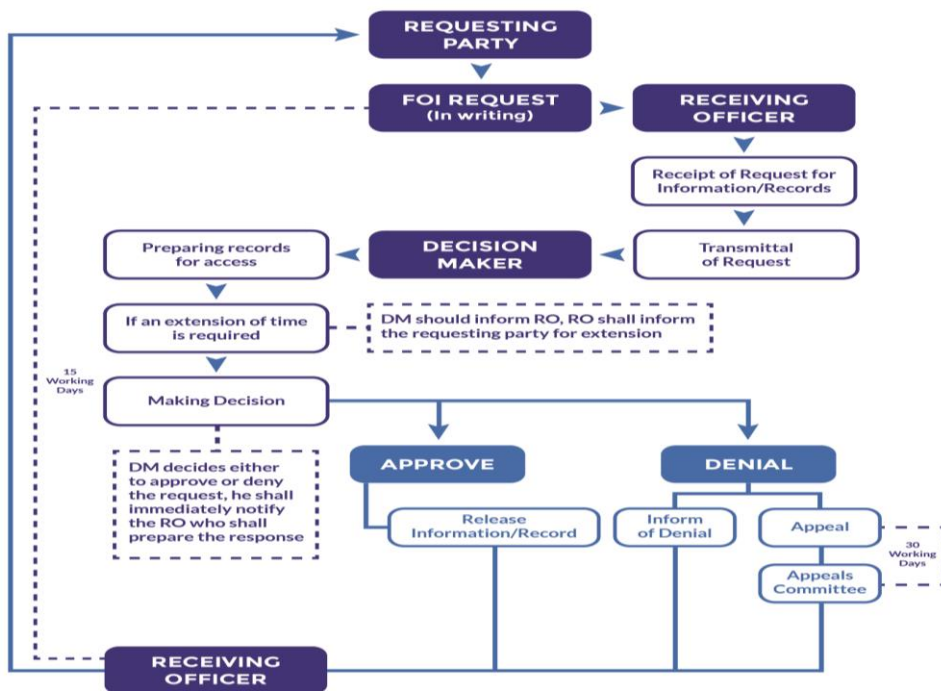
2. any commercial purpose other than by news and communications media for dissemination to the general public;
- d. Lists, abstracts, summaries of information requested when such lists, abstract or summaries are not part of the duties of the government office requested;
- e. Those information and proceedings deemed confidential under rules and regulations issued by relevant government agencies or as decided by the courts;
- f. Requested information pertains to comments and disclosures on pending cases in judicial proceedings; and
- g. Attorney-client privilege existing between government lawyers and their client.



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ANNEX “E”

FOI Request Standard Flow Chart



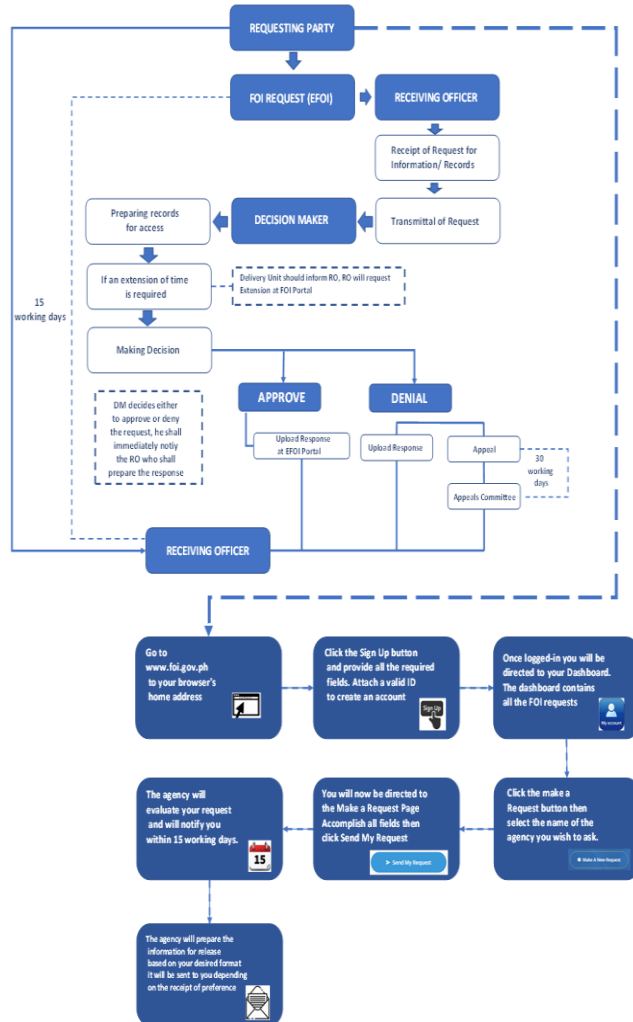


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ANNEX “F”

FOI Request Flow Chart eFOI Portal





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ANNEX "G"

https://ntc.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/foi/FOI_Form.pdf



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

NTC Form No.: _____
FOI Tracking No.: _____

FOI REQUEST FORM

INSTRUCTIONS: All blanks must be filled up properly. Indicate "N/A" for items not applicable. Duly accomplished form must be submitted with required/supporting documents. Print all entries in block or CAPITAL LETTERS.

REQUESTING PARTY

1. Title (e.g. Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss): _____ 2. Given Name: _____ 3. MI: _____ 4. Surname: _____ 5. Suffix: _____

6. Complete Address:

Unit/House no. _____ Street _____ Barangay _____ City/Municipality _____ Province _____

7. Company/School Name:

8. Landline No.: _____ 9. Mobile No.: _____ 10. Email Address: _____

11. Preferred Mode of Communications: ☐ Landline ☐ Mobile ☐ Email

12. Preferred Mode of Reply: (We will be sending the reply in this manner) ☐ Email ☐ Fax ☐ Postal Address ☐ Pick-up at NTC

13. Type Of Valid ID Presented: ☐ Passport ☐ Driver's License ☐ SSS ID ☐ Postal ID
(ID's should contain photo and signature) ☐ Voter's ID ☐ School ID ☐ Others : _____

REQUESTED INFORMATION

14. Title of Document/Record Requested: _____

15. Date (DD/MM/YY): _____ OR Period: _____ to _____

16. Purpose: _____

DECLARATION

Privacy Statement: Information provided by the requester will be used by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to deal and respond with the request as set out in the Freedom of Information Executive Order No. 2. If the NTC gives the requester access to the requested document, and if the document contains no personal information about the requester, the document will be published online at NTC's disclosure log, along with the requester's name and the date applied for. If another person, company or body will use or benefit the documents sought, it will be readily available for NTC's Disclosure.

I declare that:

- The information provided in the form is complete and correct;
- I have read the Privacy Notice;
- I have presented at least one government-issued ID to establish proof of identity

I understand that it is an offense to give misleading information about my identity, and that doing so may result in a decision to refuse to process my request.

Signature: _____

Date Accomplished: _____

NOTE: 1. NTC shall not charge any fee for accepting request. However, NTC may require the requesting party to pay for reproduction or photocopying fee as specified under Section 8 of NTC's FOI Manual.

2. NTC may also require the requesting party to provide a postage stamp in case the requester opted to mail the reply of the FOI Request.



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Freedom Of Information (FOI)

FOI RECEIVING OFFICER (For NTC Use Only)

FOI Receiving Officer Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Date/Time FOI of Request Received: _____ - _____ : _____

Proof of ID Presented: ☐ Passport ☐ Driver's License ☐ SSS/GSIS ID or UMID ☐ Postal ID

*(Photocopies of the Original
Should be attached)*

☐ Voter's ID ☐ School ID ☐ Others : _____

The Request is Recommended to be : ☐ Approved ☐ Denied

If denied, Please tick the Reason for Denial: ☐ Invalid Request ☐ Incomplete ☐ Data available online

☐ The information requested contains sensitive personal information protected by *Data Privacy Act of 2012*.

☐ Exception: _____

Decision Maker Assigned to Delivery Unit: _____ *(DM's Initial)*

☐ BSD ☐ RSPD ☐ IPMB ☐ AB ☐ LEGAL

☐ ESD ☐ RB ☐ SLB ☐ PFMB ☐ NTC RO: _____

Unit Receiving Officer: _____ **Signature:** _____

Status of Request: ☐ Successful ☐ Partially Successful

Decision Maker's Decision on Processed Request: _____ ☐ Approved ☐ Denied

Date Request Finished: _____

Date Documents Released/Sent: _____

FOI Registry Accomplished: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receiving Officer Signature: _____

(Released of FOI Reply)

Date: _____

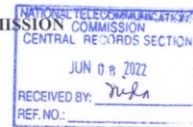


NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Freedom Of Information (FOI)

ANNEX "H"
CENTRAL APPEALS AND REVIEW COMMITTEE



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
NTC Building, BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City
Email: ntc@ntc.gov.ph; website: <http://www.ntc.gov.ph>



OFFICE ORDER NO. 059-06-2022

SUBJECT : AMENDMENT OF OFFICE ORDER NO. 68-04-2017, NTC CENTRAL
APPEALS AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

DATE : June 6, 2022

In the interest of service and pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No.2, s. 2016, and to the National Telecommunications Commission Freedom of Information (NTC-FOI) Manual, the NTC Central Appeals and Review Committee (NTC-CARC) is hereby amended as follows:

ATTY. ELLA BLANCA B. LOPEZ
Deputy Commissioner

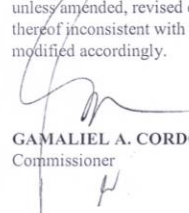
ATTY. ANDRES D. CASTELAR, JR.
OIC-Director, Legal Branch

ATTY. MARIA XANDRALYN M. MOLINA-ALMAZAN
Chief, Consumer Welfare and Protection Division

NTC-CARC Procedures and Functions:

1. A written request for appeal may be filed before the NTC-CARC by the same person making the FOI request within fifteen(15) calendar days from the notice of denial or from lapse of the relevant period to respond to the request;
2. The NTC-CARC shall submit its recommendation within fifteen(15) working days from receipt of the written appeal to the NTC Commissioner;
3. The NTC Commissioner will then render final decision within fifteen (15) working days from the receipt of recommendation from the NTC-CARC. The final decision may deny or approve the said written appeal.

This Order shall take effect immediately, superseded previous issuances and shall remain effective unless amended, revised or repealed. All Orders, Memoranda, Circulars and Issuances or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of the NTC-FOI Manual are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.


GAMALIEL A. CORDOBA
Commissioner

REV.NO. : 1
REVISION DATE: 06-06-2022

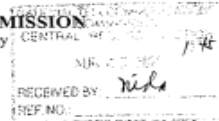


NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Freedom Of Information (FOI)

ANNEX "I"
DESIGNATING NTC FOI DECISION MAKER



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
NTC Building, BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City
Email: ntc@ntc.gov.ph; website: <http://www.ntc.gov.ph>



OFFICE ORDER NO. 074-08-2022

SUBJECT : DESIGNATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER JON PAULO V. SALVAHAN AS THE NTC FOI DECISION MAKER, AMENDING OFFICE ORDER NO. 054-05-2022 DATED 20 MAY 2022 FOR THIS PURPOSE

DATE : AUG 03 2022

In the interest of service and pursuant to Executive Order No. 2, series of 2016 and for the efficient and effective implementation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) programs of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), **Deputy Commissioner Jon Paulo V. Salvahan**, this Commission, is hereby designated as **FOI Decision Maker (FDM)** with the following functions, duties and responsibilities as provided in the revised FOI People's Manual:

A. FUNCTIONS:

FDM shall evaluate the request for information and have the authority to grant or deny such request, based on the following:

- a. The agency does not have the information requested;
- b. The information requested contain sensitive information protected by the Data Privacy Act of 2012;
- c. The information requested falls under the list of exceptions;
- d. The request is identical or substantially similar from the same requesting party whose request have been previously granted or denied by this Commission;
- e. Vexatious request; and/or
- f. Such other grounds which the FDM finds meritorious/unmeritorious.

B. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The FDM shall ensure that actions on the request for information shall adhere to the deadlines, and shall proactively engage with the requesting party and timely consult with the attached agency or office, as necessary and applicable, to resolve such FOI request;
- b. The FDM should collaborate and cooperate with the FOI Officer in dealing with the request and provide responses, estimate of costs (if applicable) and other assistance, as may be necessary, on requests that are coordinated by the FOI Officers;



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

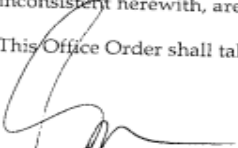
Freedom Of Information (FOI)

- c. The FDM shall maintain up-to-date information on relevant precedents. For complex/difficult cases, the FDM and the FOI Officer should closely coordinate to identify relevant precedents, if any;
- d. In case the request involves non-personal records provided by other government offices that may appear in the media once released, such other government offices may be contacted to advise them that the records are being released so that they may be prepared for any queries arising from it. The FDM, thru the FOI Officer may also contact counterparts in other government offices for advice on related request to ensure consistency in the handling of such requests; and
- e. The FDM shall ensure that all records and data including electronic and hard copies are identified.

The designation of Deputy Commissioner Salvahan as FDM shall be in addition to his existing duties and responsibilities.

In view thereof, Office Order No. 054-05-2022, including any and all other issuances inconsistent herewith, are hereby superseded and/or revoked accordingly.

This Office Order shall take effect immediately.


GAMALIEL A. CORDOBA
Commissioner