

# Freedom of Information **PEOPLE'S MANUAL**



**Department of Science and Technology**  
Regional Office No. XI

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**REGIONAL OFFICE NO. XI**  
Friendship Cor. Dumanlas Road, Bajada, Davao City

**SECTION 1: OVERVIEW**

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of the FOI Manual is to provide the process to guide and assist the REGIONAL OFFICE (RO) including its Provincial Science and Technology Centers (PSTCs/CSTC) in dealing with requests of information received under the Executive Order (EO) 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 RO, and its PSTCs/CSTC when a request for access to information is received. The Regional Director (RD) is responsible for all actions carried out under this Manual and may delegate this responsibility to the Officer-in-Charge and the respective Provincial Science and Technology Directors (PSTDs/CSTD). The RD or the respective PSTDs/CSTD, 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 RO and all its PSTCs/CSTC, as follows:
  - a) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Davao del Sur
  - b) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Davao del Norte
  - c) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Davao Oriental
  - d) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Davao Occidental
  - e) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Compostela Valley Province
  - f) Davao City Science and Technology Center
  
4. **FOI Receiving Officer:** There shall be an FOI Receiving Officer (FRO) designated at the RO. The FRO shall preferably come from the Corporate Communication Office, or its equivalent of the RO. The FRO shall hold office at DOST Region XI Office, Friendship Cor., Dumanlas Road, Bajada, Davao City, and the respective PSTCs/CSTC at the following addresses:
  - a) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Davao del Sur  
Door 4 & 5 Baladiang Bldg., Lim St., Digos City, Davao del Sur
  - b) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Davao del Norte  
University of Southeastern Philippines Compound, Tagum City

- c) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Davao Oriental  
Door 4 Valles Bldg. Sto. Niño St., Mati City, Davao Oriental
- d) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Davao Occidental  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor Academic Building, Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology Main Campus, Malita, Davao Occidental
- e) Provincial Science and Technology Center – Compostela Valley Province  
Lusan Bldg., G. Echavez Avenue, Purok 10, Poblacion, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province
- f) Davao City Science and Technology Center  
Friendship Cor. Dumanlas Road, Bajada, Davao City

5. **FOI Decision Maker:** The heads of each agency, institute, council or office or their respective Officers-In-Charge (OICs) are hereby designated as FOI Decision makers (FDM) of their respective agencies/offices. They shall conduct the evaluation of the request for information and provide initial decision thereto on whether to grant or deny or partially deny the request.
6. **Appeals and Review Committee:** A person whose request for access to information has been denied may file a written appeal to the Department Central Appeals and Review Committee within (15) working calendar days from the notice of denial or from the lapse of the period to respond to the request.

## **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 disclosability of the records before any final determination is made. This process is called a “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.

**FOI.gov.ph.** The website that serves as the government’ s comprehensive FOI website for all information on the FOI. Among many other features, FOI.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. FOI.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.

**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.** Information 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 AGENCY 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.

**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.

**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.

**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. The process is called a "referral" .

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

- a) About an individual race, ethnic origin, marital status, age, color, and religious philosophical, or political affiliations;
- b) 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;
- c) Issued by government agencies peculiar to any 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
- d) Specifically established by an executive order or an act of Congress to be kept classified.

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

### **SECTION 3. PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

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

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

### **SECTION 4. STANDARD PROCEDURE**

(See **Annex "E"** for flowchart)

#### **1. Receipt of Request for Information.**

- a) The FOI Receiving Officer (FRO) shall receive the request for information from the requesting party and check compliance using the provided form of the following requirements:
  - i. The request must be in writing;
  - ii. The request shall state the name and contact information of the requesting party, as well as provide valid proof of identification or authorization; and
  - iii. The request shall reasonably describe the information requested, and the reason for, or purpose of, the request for information. (See **Annex "E"** )
  - iv. The request must clearly and categorically state the reason/s for, or purpose of, the request for information

The request can be made through email, provided that the requesting party shall attach a scanned copy of the duly accomplished FOI application request form available in the DOST XI website, [www.region11.dost.gov.ph](http://www.region11.dost.gov.ph), and FOI websites, [www.data.gov.ph](http://www.data.gov.ph) or [www.foi.gov.ph](http://www.foi.gov.ph) a copy of a valid government ID with photo (e.g. driver' s license, PRC license, GSIS, SSS, Senior Citizen or Voter' s ID)



The FOI request form can be accessed online or physically accessed at the DOST Central Office.

- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) The RO or any of its PSTCs/CSTC must respond to the requests promptly, within the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) 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:

- i. 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
- ii. 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.

- a) **Sufficient Request:** If the FRO finds the request for information sufficient in form and substance, the FRO shall forward to the FOI Decision Maker (FDM) such request within three (3) working days 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 acknowledgment of receipt of request.

- b) **Request relating to more than one office under the RO:** 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 such offices that they will only provide the specific information that relates to their offices.
- c) **Requested information is not in the custody of the RO or any of its PSTCs/CSTC:** If the requested information is not in the custody of the RO or any of its PSTCs/CSTC following referral and discussions with the FDM, the FRO shall undertake the following steps:

- i. If the requested information is not in the custody of the agency, institute, council or office, the request will be immediately transferred to such appropriate agency, institute, council or office within three (3) working days from the receipt of request by the FRO

Should the agency, institute, council or office to which the request is subsequently transferred also decide that the request pertains to information in the possession of another agency, institute, council or office, the former is also given a period of three (3) working days within which to transfer the request to the latter.

In case of the inability to determine office jurisdiction or, if the request has been previously transferred from one agency, institute, council or office to another and the requested information is not in the custody of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) agency, institute, council or office which received it, the same shall be referred by the latter to the DOST-Central Office within three (3) working days from receipt of such referral, to which agency, institute, council or office the request properly pertains with the assistance of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs.

- ii. If the request refers to information not in the possession of the Department, its attached agencies, institutes, councils or offices, the requesting party shall be advised accordingly.
- d) **Requested information is already posted and available online:** Should the information being requested is already posted and publicly available in the

DOST XI 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. An internet kiosk shall be provided in the RO and its PSTCs/CSTC for easy access by customers of the information posted online.

- e) **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.

- a) He or she shall direct concerned staff to 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.
- b) If the assigned staff needs further details to identify or locate the information, he or she 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.
- c) The FDM shall likewise initially determine if the requested information falls under the exceptions stated under the "List of Exceptions" in Annex D.

Should the requested information fall under any of the foregoing exceptions, the request shall be immediately denied. The FRO shall inform the applicant of the reason of such denial.

- d) It is the policy of the Department that all data received as per FOI request shall not be used for commercial purposes and shall not be transferred to third parties without the express written consent of the Department. In this regard, the Department reserves the right to determine as to which matters are to be deemed commercial in nature.

**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.

- a) The FRO shall attach a cover/transmittal letter signed by the RD or the designated FDM, or PSTDs/CSTD concerned and ensure the transmittal of such to the requesting party within 15 working days upon receipt of the request for information. The FRO shall require the requesting party to sign conforming that said party has been informed of and agrees to the policies of the Department as stated herein. The requesting party may be directed to pay the applicable fees, if any.
- b) 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.
- f) The agency, institute, council or office shall respond to the request within the period provided for by this Order. The said period may be extended on valid grounds and the FRO shall inform the requesting party of the said extension, setting forth the reasons for such. In no case shall the extension exceed twenty (20) working days, unless exceptional circumstances warrant a longer period.
- g) If the request is denied, wholly or partially, the FRO shall, within fifteen (15) working days from receipt of request for information, notify the requesting party of the denial in writing. The notice shall clearly set forth the ground for denial and the legal basis thereof.
- h) All communication involving FOI Requests shall be copy furnished the Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs.

#### **SECTION 5. REMEDIES IN CASE OF DENIAL**

A person whose request for access to information has been denied may file a written appeal to the Department Central Appeals and Review Committee within fifteen (15) working calendar days from the notice of denial or from the lapse of the period to respond to the request. In this regard, the following Executive Officials are hereby designated as the Appeals and Review Committee for all DOST-attached agencies, institutes, councils, or offices:

Chairperson:	Assistant Secretary for Finance and Legal Affairs
Vice-Chairperson:	Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation
Member:	Director, Planning and Evaluation Service

- a) The Central Appeals and Review Committee ( "Committee" ) shall, within fifteen (15) working days from the filing of said written appeal, submit its recommendation to the Office of the Secretary.
- b) The appeal shall be decided by the Department Secretary within fifteen (15) working days upon the recommendation of the Committee. The Department Secretary shall furnish a copy of its final decision. Should there be a failure to decide the appeal within the total thirty (30) day period, this shall be deemed as 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 pursuant to Administrative Order No.22, s. 2011.

## **SECTION 6. REQUEST TRACKING SYSTEM**

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

## **SECTION 7. FEES**

- 1. No request fee.** The RO shall not charge any fee for accepting requests for access to information.
- 2. Reasonable Cost of Reproduction, Copying, and/or Delivery of the Information.**  
The FRO shall immediately notify the requesting party in case there shall be a reproduction, copying, and/or delivery fee in order to provide the information. Such fee shall be the actual amount spent by the RO in providing the information to the requesting party. The schedule of fees shall be posted by the RO and PSTCs/CSTC.
- 3. Exemption from fees.** The RO 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 8. ADMINISTRATIVE LIABILITY**

- 1. Non-compliance with FOI.** Failure to comply with the provisions of this Manual shall be grounded for the following administrative penalties:
  - a) 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Reprimand
  - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Suspension of one (1) to thirty (30) days; and
  - c) 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 rule, or regulation prescribed by anybody or agency, which provides for more stringent penalties.

## 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.

##### **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. Model Agency FOI Manual (updated as of 19 January 2017) Recommended by the Presidential Communications Operations Office

##### **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).

FOI requests must be sent to the specific agency of interest, to be received by its respective Receiving Officer.

### **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.

### **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 will it 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) calendar 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) calendar 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.

**ANNEX "B"**

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 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;

**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.

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;

(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 8 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.

(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 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 7 (f) 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, 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

**ANNEX "C"**

**FOI Receiving Officers, FOI Decision Makers, and Appeals Committee of the Department of Science and Technology Region XI and its Provincial Science and Technology Centers and City Science and Technology Center**

<b>Name of Agency</b>	<b>Location of FOI Receiving Office</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>	<b>Assigned FOI Receiving Officer</b>	<b>Assigned FOI Decision Maker</b>	<b>FOI Appeals Committee</b>
DOST Region XI	Friendship Cor. Dumanlas Road, Bajada, Davao City	(082) 227-1313 (082) 221-5428	Leslie Pearl M. Cancio, SRS II	Dr. Anthony C. Sales, CESO III Regional Director	Dr. Anthony C. Sales, CESO III Regional Director
CSTC – Davao City	Friendship Cor. Dumanlas Road, Bajada, Davao City	(082) 227-1313 (082) 221-5428	Just D. Magallanes, SRS II	Enidina Ortizo, CSTD	Eduardo P. Tesorero ARD – FASD
PSTC – Davao del Sur	Door 4 & 5 Baladiang Bldg., Lim St., Digos City, Davao del Sur	(082) 553-3469 <a href="mailto:pstcdavaodelsur@yahoo.com">pstcdavaodelsur@yahoo.com</a>	Leah Mayol, SRS II	Vicente S. Dagangon PSTD- Davao del Sur	Elsie Mae A. Solidum ARD – TSD
PSTC – Davao del Norte	University of Southeastern Philippines Compound, Tagum City	(084) 216-9189 <a href="mailto:pstcdn.dostxi@gmail.com">pstcdn.dostxi@gmail.com</a>	Leselle Abatol, SRS II	Judy Donna D. Nueva Ecija, PSTD- Davao del Norte	Mirasol G. Domingo ARD – TSSD
PSTC – Davao Oriental	Door 4 Valles Bldg. Sto. Niño St., Mati City, Davao Oriental	(087) 388-4085 <a href="mailto:pstc.davaooriental@gmail.com">pstc.davaooriental@gmail.com</a>	Bernardita N. Pogosa, SRS II	Sharon B. Mendoza PSTD- Davao Oriental	
PSTC – Davao	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Academic Building, Southern Philippines Agri-	0932-613-3274 <a href="mailto:pstc.davaooccidental@gmail.com">pstc.davaooccidental@gmail.com</a>	Alma Joy R. Santillan, Clerk II	Maria Victoria I. Dado PSTD- Davao	



Occidental	Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology Main Campus, Malita, Davao Occidental			Occidental	
PSTC – Compostela Valley Province	Lusan Bldg., G. Echavez Avenue, Purok 10, Poblacion, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province	(087) 817-0016 <a href="mailto:pstccomval.dost11@gmail.com">pstccomval.dost11@gmail.com</a> comval.pstc@yahoo.com	May Raquel G. Carpo, Clerk II	Kenneth D. Barroga PSTD- Compostela Valley	

## **ANNEX "D"**

### **LIST OF EXCEPTIONS**

The following are the exceptions to the right of access to information, as recognized by the Constitution, existing laws, or jurisprudence:<sup>1</sup>

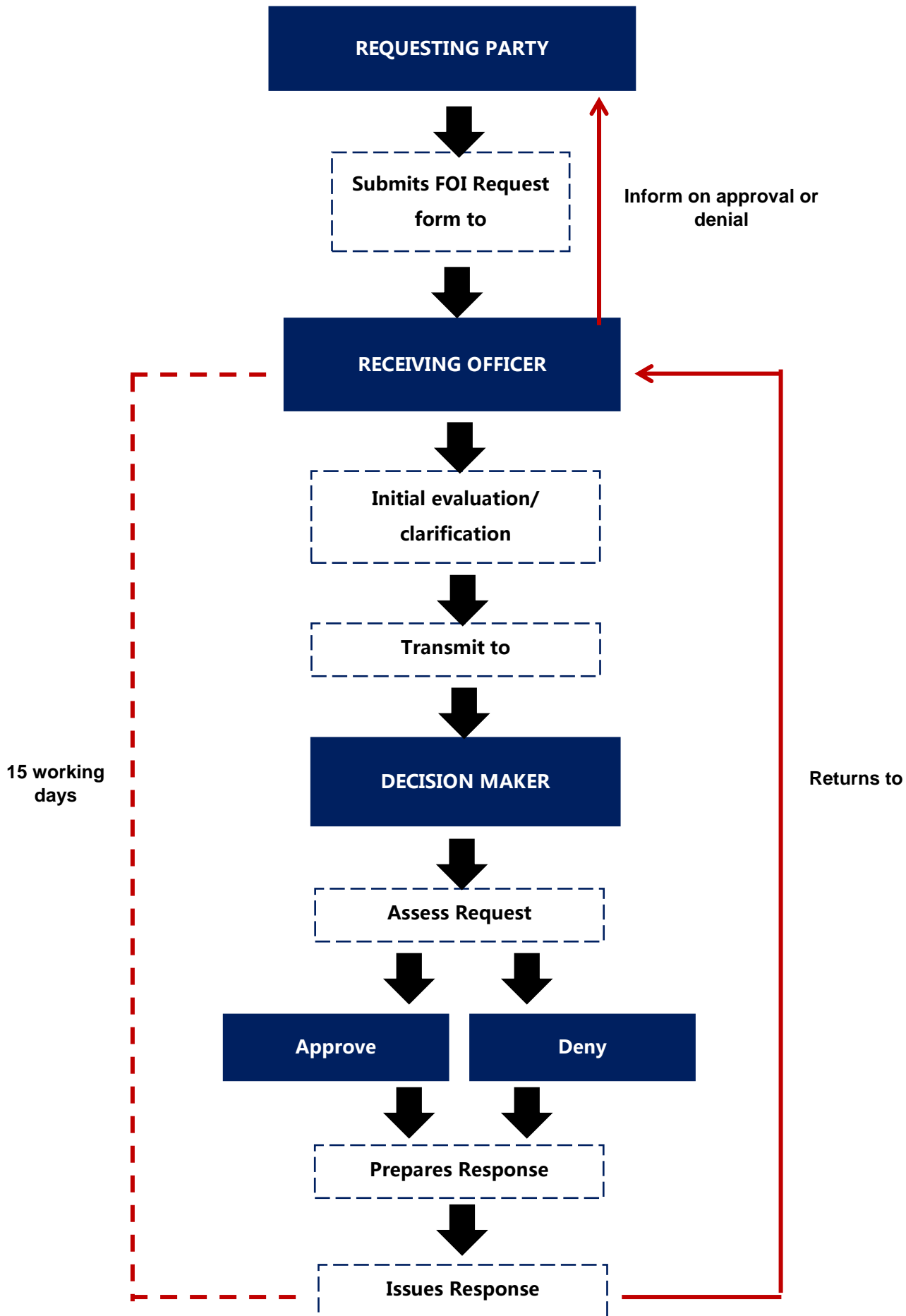
1. Information covered by Executive privilege;
2. Privileged information relating to national security, defense or international relations;
3. Information concerning law enforcement and protection of public and personal safety;
4. Information deemed confidential for the protection of the privacy of persons 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**ANNEX "E"**

**Flow Chart**



**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**REGIONAL OFFICE NO. XI**  
*Friendship Cor. Dumanlas Road, Bajada, Davao City*

**PORMULARYO NG KAHILINGAN**  
*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)*

Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**PARAAN NG PAGTANGGAP NG MGA**  
**IMPORMASYON**

*(How would you like to receive the information?)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Postal Address	_____



Pick-up  
(Office hours) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Gawaing**

**itinalaga kay:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Submitted to)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Lumagda sa ibaba ng pangalang nakalimbag)*

**Petsa / Oras ng**

**Pagkatalaga:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Date / Time of  
Submission)*

**Taong nagpapatunay ng Gawaing**

**Natapos:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Certified by)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Lumagda sa ibaba ng pangalang nakalimbag)*

**Uri ng isinagawang**

**aksiyon:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Type of Action  
Conducted)*

**Iniskedyul ni (Received by):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**FOI Receiving Officer**

**Remarks:**

\_\_\_\_\_