



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE
Tanggapang Pampanguluhan sa Operasyong Pangkomunikasyon
Malacañang, Manila

Advisory No. 01, s. 2020

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY

FOR : **ALL CONCERNED PARTIES**

ALL AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, OFFICES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR-CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND LOCAL WATER DISTRICTS, AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE PERSONNEL

SUBJECT : ADVISORY ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE PERIOD TO RESPOND TO FOI REQUEST DUE TO COVID-19

DATE : 16 March 2020

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Article III of the 1987 Constitution provides that the right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official 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, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law;

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

WHEREAS, on 23 July 2016, Executive Order (EO) No. 02 series of 2016 was issued by President Rodrigo R. Duterte to operationalize in the Executive Branch the Constitutional mandate of the people's right of access to information;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Order (MO) No. 10 series of 2016 designated the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) as the lead agency in the implementation of EO No. 2, s. 2016;

WHEREAS, PCOO Department Order No. 018 established the Freedom of Information – Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) which shall, among others, develop policies, rules, procedures, and regulations necessary to strategic direction in implementing the FOI program;

WHEREAS, government offices shall respond to a request as soon as practicable but not exceeding fifteen (15) working days upon receipt thereof, whether to grant or deny access to the information requested. Period to respond may be extended for not more than twenty (20) working days in cases provided under EO No. 2, s. 2016, unless exceptional circumstances warrant a longer period;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary issued on 14 March 2020 with the subject "Stringent Social Distancing Measures and Further Guidelines for the Management of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation," alternative working arrangements, including but not limited to, work-from-home, compressed work week, staggered working hours, and creation of skeletal workforces, will be implemented in the Executive branch;


NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the functions of the FOI-PMO to develop policies, rules, procedures and regulations necessary to provide the strategic direction in implementing the FOI Program, strict adherence to the following is hereby ordered:

SECTION 1. The period to resolve any new FOI Request made from 13 March 2020, pursuant to EO No. 2, s. 2016, is hereby suspended until 12 April 2020. The counting of days within which to resolve a new FOI Request shall resume on 13 April 2020.

SECTION 2. The period to resolve pending FOI Requests shall be suspended and shall resume on 13 April 2020.

This Advisory shall take effect immediately.

For your guidance.



ATTY. KRISTIAN R. ABLAN

Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director

16 March 2020 Manila, Philippines.