



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 51 -2019

OPERATIONALIZING IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA THE PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND PROVIDING GUIDELINES THEREFOR

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

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

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

Whereas, on 23 July 2016, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Executive Order No. 2 entitled "Operationalizing in the Executive Branch the People's Right to Information and the State Policies to Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service and Providing Guidelines Therefor;"

Whereas, the said Executive Order is limited in scope to government offices under the Executive Branch, and merely encourages local government units to observe and be guided accordingly;

Whereas, recognizing the importance of the people's right to government information, and guided by the President's Executive Order, the Provincial Government of Isabela deems it necessary to provide a local mechanism for its offices where the people's right to information is respected and upheld, subject to exceptions provided by law and jurisprudence;

Now therefore, I, **RODOLFO T. ALBANO III**, Governor of Isabela, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby issue this Order operationalizing the people's Constitutional right to information and the State policies of full public disclosure and transparency in the public service. Henceforth:

Sec. 1. Operationalization. The operationalization of the Executive Order No. 2 for the Provincial Government of Isabela shall be governed by the Freedom of Information Manual of the Province of Isabela crafted specifically for such purpose.

Sec. 2. Coverage. This order shall cover all government offices under the Provincial Government of Isabela.

Sec. 3. Access to Information. Every resident of the Province of Isabela, and all others, 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, in the custody of the Provincial Government of Isabela or any of its offices.

Sec. 4. 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 in the inventory of FOI exceptions and in the FOI Province of Isabela Manual.

Nagkaisa para sa Isabela

Sec. 5. FOI Receiving Office (FRO). Procedure. The FRO is the Document Control Center. The FRO shall hold office at the Ground Floor, PIACO Office, Provincial Capitol, City of Ilagan, Isabela which shall receive all FOI requests.

Sec. 6. Procedure. The procedure covering all FOI requests shall be governed by the FOI Manual.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. All Orders, circulars, memoranda, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Sec. 8. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Let copies hereof be provided to all concerned for their information, reference, and guidance.

Done in the Province of Isabela, this 26th day of November 2019.

SMAN


RODOLFO T. ALBANO III
Governor 