



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

Advisory No. 03, 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, LOCAL WATER DISTRICTS, AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE PERSONNEL

SUBJECT : EXTENSION OF THE SUSPENSION OF THE PERIOD TO RESOLVE FOI REQUESTS DUE TO COVID-19

DATE : 29 April 2020

WHEREAS, the Freedom of Information – Project Management Office (FOI-PMO) issued Advisory No. 1 on 16 March 2020, suspending the period to resolve FOI requests until 12 April 2020, and Advisory No. 2 on 08 April 2020, extending the suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests until 30 April 2020;

WHEREAS, due to the further extension of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to specific areas with high threat posed by COVID-19 until 15 May 2020, wherein work-from-home arrangement and creation of skeletal workforce are being implemented in the Executive branch, the period to process and resolve FOI requests will be affected;

WHEREAS, health and safety of FOI Officers of different government agencies under the Executive branch may be compromised if they will gather data, release information, physically receive FOI requests via standard mode or process FOI requests;

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, the following are hereby advised:

Section 1. Extension of the suspension of the period to resolve FOI Requests for offices under ECQ. The period to resolve any new FOI Request made from 13 March 2020 and all pending FOI Requests are hereby suspended until such time that ECQ is lifted and work in the Executive branch of the government attained normalcy.

Section 2. Lifting of suspension to resolve FOI requests for offices under GCQ. 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 whose principal location is under the General Community Quarantine (GCQ), shall resume processing of FOI requests starting on 04 May 2020.

Section 3. Automatic suspension of the period to resolve FOI requests in locations re-declared to be under ECQ. The period to resolve any new FOI Request and all pending FOI Requests is automatically suspended in 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 whose principal location is under GCQ, upon declaration of ECQ, and shall continue until such time that ECQ is lifted.

Section 4. Non-preclusion to process FOI requests. This Advisory shall not preclude any 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, with sufficient capacity, to continue to process and resolve FOI Requests.

Section 5. Issuance of advisory lifting the suspension to resolve FOI requests. The FOI-PMO will issue another Advisory on when to resume the normal processing of FOI Requests once ECQ is lifted and work in the Executive branch of the government attained normalcy.

Section 6. Effectivity. This Advisory shall take effect immediately.



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