



RESOLUTION NO. 2, s. 2025

ADVOCATING FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION (RTI) BILL IN THE 20TH CONGRESS

WHEREAS, the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) was institutionalized by virtue of Executive Order (EO) No. 31, s. 2023, as a multi-stakeholder partnership responsible for overseeing and implementing the country's commitments to the OGP, and further strengthening the collaborative engagement between government and non-government champions in the delivery of more effective and sustainable actions to address current social concerns;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of EO No. 31, s. 2023, mandates the PH-OGP Steering Committee, chaired by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), to set the direction, programs, and activities of the PH-OGP, and promote open and participatory governance through advocacy and outreach activities;

WHEREAS, the PH-OGP is identified as a key mechanism under the Chapter 14 Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028;

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 28 and Article III, Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution guarantee the people's right to information on matters of public concern and require the State to implement full public disclosure, subject to limitations prescribed by law;

WHEREAS, during the 2025 OGP Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. emphasized that the "[our] people can only truly participate in governance if they have access to information" highlighting that "access is made possible by government transparency, digitalization, and the institutionalization of freedom of information through legislation which is a constitutionally recognized principle.";

WHEREAS, EO No. 2, s. 2016 operationalizes the people's right to information as embodied in Article III, Section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution through the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program, mandating government agencies under the Executive Branch to provide public access to official records, subject to existing laws and regulations;

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing effort to revisit the proposed legislation from "Freedom of Information" to "Right to Information", with the aim of more clearly emphasizing the law's core purpose—to empower citizens by guaranteeing access to timely, accurate, and reliable government-held information;

WHEREAS, the move to reframe the measure from "Freedom of Information" to "Right to Information" reflects a stronger and clearer message that access to government-held information is not just a matter of transparency, but a guaranteed right of every Filipino;

WHEREAS, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) as the designated agency responsible for implementing EO No. 2, s. 2016, is an active partner of the PH-OGP and a commitment holder in the 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan (NAP) through the Localization of the FOI Program;

WHEREAS, Section 47 of the General Provisions under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, directs the PH-OGP Steering Committee to embed open government values in government policies and programs while promoting participatory governance through advocacy, outreach programs, activities, and projects;

WHEREAS, to ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of the RTI Bill in today's data-driven and technology-enabled society, there is a need to future-proof its provisions by incorporating inputs and insights from academic and research institutions, subject-matter experts, and other key stakeholders;

WHEREAS, the DBM as the Chairperson of the PH-OGP Steering Committee, recognizes the importance of a legislation to institutionalize access to information and the critical role of the Partnership in promoting government transparency, exacting accountability, and enabling meaningful public participation in national and local government processes;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Committee **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES** that the PH-OGP Steering Committee advocates the passage of the RTI Bill with the DBM, as Chairperson of the PH-OGP, actively leading and supporting the lobbying efforts for the legislation, in collaboration with the PCO.

Reservation Clause

The Committee reserves the right to amend, repeal, and modify the provisions stated in this Resolution.

Adopted this 9th day of September 2025 during the 3rd Quarter Steering Committee Meeting.



AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN
Secretary, Department of Budget and
Management
Chairperson, PH-OGP Steering Committee

AURORA R. CHAVEZ
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