



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

Within the first month of this administration, we took immediate action to address the urgent need to preserve and defend our people's constitutional right to information on matters of public concern. **Executive Order No. 2** upholding the **Freedom of Information** was therefore issued institutionalizing the state's policy of full public disclosure and transparency in the public service.

We have made great strides in providing access to relevant records, research data, documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions and decisions in the executive branch. I therefore join the **Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO)** in recognizing government agencies and other organizations that made significant contributions to the development and progress of this endeavor.

I hope that both the legislative and judicial branches of government would join us in strengthening our democratic institutions by following suit and instituting measures that would allow unfettered public access to relevant information about their affairs, subject to reasonable restrictions and regulations in exceptional circumstances.

It is by ensuring accountability in public service through an informed citizenry that we can truly realize the constitutional tenet that indeed, "sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them."


RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA
4 December 2017

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES