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DTI bags FOI Award in 3rd straight year



Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez continues to champion the implementation of Executive Order No. 02, series of 2016, or the Freedom of Information (FOI) program, in the Department as full support to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's call to foster transparency and public participation in governance. Sec. Lopez is joined in the DTI FOI Team by DTI-Management Services Group (DTI-MSG) Undersecretary Ireneo V. Vizmonte (FOI Champion Alternate), and Knowledge Management and Information Service (KMIS) Director Patricia May M. Abejo (FOI Appellate).

For three years in a row, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is recognized during the Freedom of Information (FOI) Awards 2021, this time with a higher recognition of being among "Agencies With 500 to 999 Requests and With At Least 90% Closed Transactions."

The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) announced the award in a ceremony held at Radisson Blu Hotel in Cebu City, the first time it was held outside Metro Manila, and streamed live over the FOI Philippines Facebook Page on 25 November 2021.

The Award is given in recognition of the Department's achievement for the 11-month period of the year, January to November 2021, wherein DTI received and processed roughly 600 FOI requests through the eFOI portal (www.foi.gov.ph) with an average

of 4.4 days handling time per request despite the pandemic. Under the period in review, the top requested information from DTI pertained to the list of micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with 34.8% of total, MSME statistics – 26.5%, industry/market profile – 8.9%, COVID 19 – 2.1%, and suppliers directory – 1.7%.

Among the Department's continuing FOI initiatives include the conduct of an FOI orientation/refresher in May 2021 organized by the Knowledge Management and Information Service (KMIS) in partnership with the PCOO. The session, held online through Zoom, was attended by 221 FOI receiving officers (FROs) from Central Office Bureaus and Offices, Regional and Provincial Offices, and Attached Agencies.

The refresher included the processing of requests through the FOI Tracking System (FTS), developed in partnership with the Information Systems Management Service (ISMS). Said system enables FOI teams to monitor the progress of requests online and in real time.

For the previous year, the FOI Certificate of Compliance 2020 was issued to DTI in April 2021, making it four years in a row for the Department to be accorded such compliance, which is among the requirements under Administrative Order 25 (s. 2011) for the granting of the Performance-Based Bonus (PBB).

In 2019, the Department was awarded by PCOO for "being one of the top requested and performing agencies in the eFOI Portal and for its exceptional and significant contribution to the Freedom of Information Program's progress and development."

Further, the DTI received recognition during the FOI Awards 2020 as among "Agencies With 250 to 499 Requests and With At Least 90% Closed Transactions."

The awards serve as proof of the Department's administration in information transparency with KMIS functioning as the Department's FOI coordinating office, working closely with the network of designated FROs and FOI Decision Makers (FDMs) from Bureaus and Offices. In DTI, the KMIS Director serves as the FOI Appeals Officer for the Central Office, while the Regional Director performs this function within their respective region, as provided for in Department Order No. 17-01.