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Insights into Open Local Governance

A product of the Open LGU Research Project
(<http://www.lguopendata.ph>)

ASSESSING OPEN GOVERNANCE DATA IN SOUTH COTABATO



The Province of South Cotabato (hereinafter referred to as South Cotabato), founded almost five decades ago, is one of the Philippines' culturally-diverse and nature-rich areas. Located in the southern part of the country, the province is home to roughly 1.3 million people of diverse origins, a mixture of settlers from Luzon and Visayas and the indigenous people of Mindanao, more particularly the Maguindanao, T'boli, and Dibabaw.

The study found out the following:

- 1. South Cotabato fully complies with the Full Disclosure Policy (FDP) of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) by posting required governmental information in its website. (This was prior to the website redesign. However, the province posts required information also at the FDP portal). These documents, usually financial in nature, are made available in portable document format (PDF), and are regularly updated on a quarterly basis.**
- 2. South Cotabato's website focused more on tourism and on investment promotion. Apart from information on local government leaders and on recent activities of the government published as news articles, there is less governance information contained in the website. It does not also contain the programmatic thrust of the current government. There is an indication that the current website is not yet com-**

tion through multi-stakeholder meetings where they were provided with hard copies. Only one was able to access FDP document from the website.

5. Information provided by South Cotabato (in whatever form), are used by citizen groups for different purposes. Businesses use the Annual Procurement Plan of the provincial government to anticipate future bidding activities that will be conducted where they will likely have the possibility of participating in. For civil society organizations, they used it plan the activities of their to inform citizens about the government. Media representatives, on the other hand, used the documents in local governance to its attention by the public. The impact of providing information to citizens through the government website is significant.



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THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH COTABATO

HOME THE PROVINCE GOVERNMENT TOURISM OPEN GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY CITY & MUNICIPALITY CON

THEMATIC AREAS

- [OPEN LEGISLATION](#)
- [OPEN CONTRACTING](#)
- [OPEN MONITORING & EVALUATION](#)
- [OPEN INFORMATION](#)
- [OPEN MINING INFORMATION](#)

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Open Government Partnership is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. In the spirit of multi-stakeholder collaboration, OGP is overseen by a Steering Committee including representatives of governments and civil society organizations.

One of its programs, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local program, is an initiative that recognizes and supports the role that municipal, city, metropolitan, state, regional, and provincial entities play in advancing open government, due to their close proximity to citizens and the crucial public services they provide. OGP launched a Subnational Pilot in 2016, with 15 pioneering subnational governments submitting and implementing their first Action Plans 2016-2017. On April 2018, among the many local government units in the world, South Cotabato was chosen to

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Open Government Partnership



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5

The larger challenge is to transform these nouns into verbs.

6

The larger challenge is to transform these “**states of being**” into “**ways of doing**”.

7



Don't just publish data. Inform, engage, and capacitate.

8



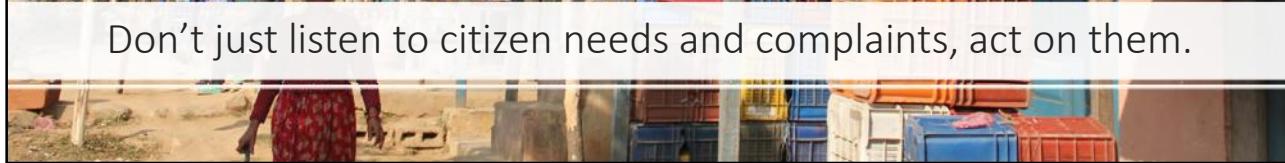
Don't just encourage participation, be open to answer difficult questions.



9



Don't just listen to citizen needs and complaints, act on them.



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Thank you.