

## **A. Date Submitted**

## **B. Duration**

Commitment Start Date: September 1, 2021

Commitment End Date: August 31, 2022

## **C. Foreword**

*The foreword can be written jointly or separately by government and civil society representatives or a multi-stakeholder forum. This should include the ambition for this plan and how they plan to work together in implementation and monitoring.*

## **D. Introduction Letter from the Governor**

## **E. Open Government Challenges, Opportunities and Strategic Vision**

***\*Content of this will be finalized after the co-creation***

*This subsection details the Open Government Strategic Vision in your local area that should guide the commitments for the action plan period:*

### ***E.1. What is the long-term vision for open government in your context and jurisdiction?***

The development of the Province of South Cotabato is guided by the shared aspirations of the people for a highly-liveable settlement where they can live a happy, safe, peaceful, healthy and comfortable life with abundant opportunities for work and livelihood. South Cotabato shall continue to support, nurture and promote the sustainable and competitive growth of its lone city and ten municipalities against a backdrop of open governance, ecological integrity and quality infrastructure that support their functional roles in provincial development as captured in its vision and mission statements.

South Cotabato's development direction is aligned with the international agenda for sustainable development – 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). South Cotabato localizes the SDGs by working on the perspective that achieving Goals #2-16 by forging strong partnerships – which is Goal # 17, will ultimately result in achieving Goal # 1 of No Poverty where no one is left behind. The vision is also anchored on the national government's vision of a “Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Buhay” (Strongly Rooted, Comfortable and Secure Life) as captured in AmBisyon Natin 2040 that envisions the Philippines as a prosperous middle-class society where no one is poor.

In order to achieve the vision, it is the role and development mission of the provincial government to highlight good governance and promote transparency, accountability and participation as a way of making people co-own their government. By providing the enabling environment for growth to thrive, this brand of governance – focused on creating spaces of integrity and open government – will increase the chances of producing tangible outcomes to our people and positive impacts to our communities.

The Vision Statement describes both the outward-looking and inward-looking elements of the envisioned long-term role and development direction of the province. The desired role of the province in the wider region or the best contribution it can make to the

development of the nation is captured in the outward-looking vision descriptors. Similarly, the characteristics of the province as a desired human habitat that provides quality spaces for living and making a living are captured in the inward-looking vision descriptors.

Significantly, the vision defines the desires of the people in each of the development sector – social, economic, infrastructure, environment and institutional, including the realization of a future that responds to the recent challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century settlements: climate change and disaster risks, alarming HIV/AIDS cases, gender and LGBTQ rights, and the resulting socio-spatial challenges of rapid urbanization – urban sprawl and massive agricultural land conversion, urban decay, environmental degradation, encroachment of protection forests and easements, expansion of spaces of the informal economy and persistent poverty.

### *E.2. What are the achievements in open government to date (for example, recent open government reforms)?*

In a country plagued by different social, economic, political and even environmental issues, being a responsive and open local government has been identified as an effective tool in addressing them. It is a well-known fact that government is created so that it could serve the people. If it cannot achieve its purpose, it loses its essence and thus failing the people. This is why in recent years, many have become discontented with their governments because they believe it does not serve them anymore.

Such is the challenge of local governments as they are the primary entity in providing the needs of its people. However, government alone cannot simply transform societies and communities. It needs the help and support of its people to fulfil its goal for a progressive and competitive society. Thus, having a responsive, open and inclusive local government is important in creating measures so that all voices and opinions of citizens will be heard. These mechanisms are also important in order to maintain the trust and confidence of the people with their governments.

For a government to be open to its people, there must be an existing environment to allow openness to thrive in. This means that there must be constant collaboration between the government and its people through a co-creative process. By practicing this basic precept of democracy of engaging citizens here in South Cotabato, we were able to let people be empowered and have their voices heard.

In 2015, South Cotabato already successfully pioneered the implementation of an integrity program at the local government level through the iSouthCotabato or South Cotabato for Integrity and Jobs program. Introduced by a consortium led by civil society and the private sector – Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and the European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines (ECCP), South Cotabato formed the South Cotabato Integrity Circle (SCIC) and developed twenty-four (24) integrity mechanisms following Caren Levy's Web of Institutionalization model. Composed of twenty-one (21) members with equal representation from the local government unit, civil society organization and business sector of seven (7) each, the Integrity Circle demonstrated increased multi-stakeholder co-ownership and co-creation in ensuring the effective implementation of integrity initiatives in the province. Championing the culture of integrity in the province, South Cotabato's Integrity Program has been recognized by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) as one of the Government Best Practices in 2018.

In 2018, with the help of our government, civil society and private/business sector partners, we were able to co-create five (5) commitments to the Open Government Partnership. Among these are technological innovations in the public procurement process as well as in the monitoring of provincial infrastructure projects.

With the assistance of the European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines (ECCP) and Hivos, and through constant dialogues with the civil society organizations and the business sector particularly local contractors and suppliers, various improvements and milestones were realized in the procurement process including the regular presence of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Observers in the bids opening of the Bids and Awards Committee, the issuance of an Administrative Order Providing the Internal Rules and Policies to Improve the Procurement Process of the Provincial Government of South Cotabato, and the development of a Procurement Data System that enables the uploading and analysis of procurement documents in machine-readable format. Further, using this system, students were encouraged to utilize the procurement data in conducting research studies by launching a Research Grant Competition using open procurement data.

Along with the procurement data system, we also developed a system for the monitoring of provincial infrastructure projects and the online disclosure of monitoring reports near real-time (one day or two after the conduct of monitoring activity), particularly those that have negative slippages or implemented beyond the target schedule of completion. Using the Open Data Kit (Kobo Toolbox), we were able to create user friendly monitoring forms for the use of the Provincial Project Monitoring Committee as well as other community-based stakeholders taking part in the monitoring activity. The system is also an online platform for citizens to directly communicate their concerns especially regarding provincial infrastructure projects within their communities or localities. It is the goal of the commitment to eventually capacitate citizens and empower grassroots-level / community-based monitors involving the basic sectors such as women, farmers or indigenous peoples.

Another deliverable in the OGP commitment is the development of the Integrated Provincial Online Database (iPOD), which is both a supply-and-demand driven online database where the public can access, save and print provincial data and information right at their homes. The iPOD aims to increase inclusivity in public access to statistical data by harnessing technology for enhanced transparency. It shall serve as the Central Provincial Online Database that will link into one platform the six databases/portals as follows: 1) Interactive Socio-Economic Profile System (iSEPS) that will be a supply-driven system that captures sectoral data pertaining to demographics, economic, social, environment/DRR-CCA and institutional development for ready use of individuals/researchers/schools, communities and organizations; 2) Provincial Government Programs and Services Portal where programs and services of provincial departments shall be made available; 3) Procurement Data System that houses all procurement data with analytics and visualization; 4) Mining Information Portal where all data on the small-scale mining activities of the province shall be accessed; 5) Legislative Information Tracking System that will feature a database with query functions on all provincial legislations; and 6) Infrastructure Monitoring System Using ODK that allows the Provincial Project Monitoring Committee to monitor locally-funded projects using any Android device and post monitoring results near-real-time giving users access to automated analytics, data visualizations and maps.

The Provincial Government of South Cotabato has steadfastly and painstakingly responded to the country's fight against the dreaded coronavirus disease, by developing its own Local Response mechanisms that is equal to the Philippine government's T3s (Trace,

Test and Treat), coupled with P3 or Public-Private Partnership. These mechanisms include: a COVID-19 Center in the Municipality of Surallah (Treat), a COVID-19 Testing Center in Dr. Arturo P. Pingoy Medical Center through public-private partnership (Test), and a contact tracing system in place (Trace). All these three (3) mechanisms successfully address the provincial government's criteria in reopening economic activities in the province.

The South Cotabato-COVID-19 Contact Tracing System (SC-CCTS) is a locally-developed electronic logbook system that does not require smart phones and internet or Bluetooth from the general public and provides accurate information for efficient and expeditious contact tracing. Government agencies and private establishments are obliged to register online and download the application while local residents and non-residents of the province are required to register online for the issuance of QR-coded CCTS ID cards. Working as a digital logbook, these cards will be presented for scanning upon entering all government offices and private establishments where the date and time of a person's entry will be recorded and stored in a cloud server. Once a person becomes positive to COVID-19, a report can be generated within less than an hour of all the places he/she has been in the last 14 days including the contact details of all the persons exposed to the confirmed patient.

By acknowledging the voices of the various civil society organizations and the private sector, valuable inputs were considered in the development and implementation of the system. To ensure that all important data are secured and protected, data protection safeguards were created.

One key feature of the SC-CCTS is the Audit Team. The team is responsible of ensuring data protection and privacy in the entire process or stages of system implementation up until the deletion of data. The team is composed of representatives from the academe, civil society organizations, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Commission on Human Right and the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

Overall, the system promotes inclusivity by considering the safety especially of the most disadvantaged sectors – those without smartphones and access to the internet or Bluetooth. By working together with the various partners from the civil society, the private sector as well as the government, we were able to come up with a system that is transparent, accountable and inclusive.

*E.3. What are the current challenges/areas for improvement in open government that the jurisdiction wishes to tackle?*

We can safely say that the open government seed we have planted is slowly growing. In order for it to continue to grow and thrive, we have to nurture and sustain the already existing open government mechanisms and improve on areas that require more work.

*E.4. What are the medium-term open government goals that the government wants to achieve?*

The education and capacitation of many individuals to what open information, open contracting and open legislation are, is very crucial in attaining a genuine open government.

Educating the citizens about what Open Information, Open Contracting and Open Legislation are and how these can affect their lives can deepen their appreciation and move them to engage more in the province's open government initiatives.

Capacitating the people on how they can implement, monitor and assess where the government is when it comes to its open government goals can help a lot in achieving them.

***E.5. How does this action plan contribute to achieve the Open Government Strategic Vision?***

The Provincial Government of South Cotabato continues to work with civil society, youth leaders, and other members of private sector in engaging the youth on OGP Local program commitments by educating them by introducing and deepen their knowledge and awareness with the concepts of FOI and Open Contracting. It will also involve the youth leaders and organizations to activities on Open Government initiatives, converge them to co-create and collaborate with fellow youth sectors and other community members, and leads them in advocating FOI and Open Contracting as ambassadors to the community. Those activities contribute in achieving Open Government strategic vision as it promotes good governance and promote transparency, accountability and participation as a way of making people co-own their government. By providing the enabling environment for growth to thrive, this brand of governance – focused on creating spaces of integrity and open government – will increase the chances of producing tangible outcomes to our people and positive impacts to our communities

***E.6. How does the open government strategic vision contribute to the accomplishment of the current administration's overall policy goals?***

Good governance is at the core of South Cotabato's Development Framework. Among the 5 Development Priorities of this administration is "Strengthening Good Governance," where we advance grassroots-focused or bottom-up, open, participatory and digital-driven governance to reduce poverty and build lasting peace.

**F. Engagement and Coordination in the Government Strategic Vision and OGP Action Plan**

***\*Content of this will be finalized after the co-creation***

***F.1. What are the lead institutions responsible for the implementation of the OGP action plan?***

The implementation of this action plan will mainly fall under the provincial government and the lead implementing organization for the commitment, namely, the the Youth for Freedom of Information.

The Youth Alliance for Freedom of Information, however, was engaged to serve as the non-government commitment holder for freedom of information in the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) national action plan for the current period. They aim to partner with the Provincial Government of South Cotabato and other stakeholders especially with the youth to collaborate with one another to sustain and to develop the Open Government Partnership initiatives that were already planted in the province.

Together with these implementing organizations, the South Cotabato Integrity Circle (SCIC) will also serve an integral part in the successful implementation of these commitments acting as the multi-stakeholder forum. The SCIC is a cohort of representatives from government, civil society and the business sector who are committed to the ideals of honesty, simplicity and professionalism, and who could contribute good ideas on integrity. The circle was formed to serve as the supervisory and partner body in the integrity and good governance efforts of the provincial government by promoting exchanges of best practices and strengthening the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of South Cotabato's Integrity and Business Promotions Mechanisms.

*F.2. What kind of institutional arrangements are in place to coordinate between government agencies and departments to implement the OGP action plan?*

South Cotabato has since had a strong relationship with its private/business sector, even before joining the OGP. The provincial government has always been keen in engaging both its civil society organizations and the private and business sectors through their inclusion and participation in the different local special bodies.

This particular relationship has enabled balance in the whole co-creation process. Since there is already an existing partnership between the provincial government and its private and business sectors, it was never difficult to ask for their support. There were also a number of ideas and suggestions from them during the co-creation process that were incorporated in the action plan.

The provincial government also has a functional and active Provincial Development Council (PDC) that is mainly the policy-making and primary planning body. Its main concern is the overall socio-economic development of the province. Consisting of five (5) sectoral committees (economic, social, infrastructure and land use, institutional, environment and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation) with representatives from civil society organizations, local government units and agencies, the PDC acts the primary institution that coordinates and sets the direction of all economic and social development efforts in the province. At the same time, the PDC serves as a forum where local efforts can be related and integrated with provincial and regional development activities.

*F.3. What kind of space have you used or created to enable the collaboration between government and civil society in the co-creation and implementation of this action plan? Mention both offline and online spaces.*

With the SCIC acting as the main stage for immediate collaboration between the provincial government, civil society and its lead partners in implementing this action plan, different online and offline mediums were used for constant engagement. Given the present global situation with COVID-19, the use of online platforms was heavily considered to curb the spread of the disease. Online platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet and even Jitsi Meet was used along with limited physical meetings at the Provincial Development Council Hall in the Provincial Capitol were done for a more inclusive and comprehensive discussion without risking the health of those involved.

As the primary body that serves as the multi-stakeholder forum of the South Cotabato – Open Government Partnership, the South Cotabato Integrity Circle is also the ideal space for government and civil society collaboration. Since the body meets on a quarterly basis, it opens up opportunities for in depth discussions on how to improve good governance mechanisms and systems.

*F.4. What measures did you take to ensure diversity of representation (including vulnerable or marginalized populations) in these spaces?*

Section 34 of the Local Government Code of 1991 underscores the importance of promoting the establishment and operation of people's and non-governmental organizations to become active partners in the pursuit of local autonomy. To become legitimate partners in local governance, CSOs such as NGOs, people's organizations, cooperatives and professional groups must be accredited by the provincial legislative body, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. Further, the Department of the Interior and Local Government issued a Memorandum Circular, MC No. 2013-70, which provides the clarificatory guidelines relative to the accreditation of CSOs and in the selection of their representatives to the local special bodies (LSBs). Only accredited CSOs are qualified to become members of LSBs such as the PDC and SCIC.

The SCIC and PDC has since been promoting inclusivity and diversity through the representation of vulnerable and marginalized groups, particularly from the indigenous peoples, women, and senior citizens. Both these local special bodies empower CSOs to take part in the decision making and development processes of the provincial government. By allowing them a space to converse, they can directly express their concerns as well as opinions on certain issues and thus create a holistic system of decision making.

*F.5. Who participated in these spaces? Mention the type of different groups that participated in the co-creation process (for example public sector agencies, civil society, and community organizations).*

For some time, the government has been providing programs and services in response to the people's needs. This eventually resulted in narrow, circumscribed and apolitical solutions to the people's needs. To fully address issues such as poverty, there must be a need to improve in making governance and development more inclusive to build up the power of those who are excluded. Grassroots participation is essential in social and economic development. This is especially true if citizen involvement is limited. With the Open Government Partnership and open government initiatives of the provincial government, the inclusion of marginalized communities, specifically our indigenous peoples and women, in the co-creation process as well as in open governance has allowed for these communities to become more empowered. Unfortunately, the divide between the government and its people has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the nature of the disease, physical gatherings have become limited as this increases the risk of infection. Despite this, government must create or explore new and innovative measure to make sure that nobody is left behind and maintain a certain degree of connection and participation among the people.

The two types of groups who attended the co-creation workshops are from the government and the private sector. The following agencies/offices/institutions/organizations have been represented during the workshops:

National Agencies:

1. Department of Interior and Local Government
2. Philhealth
3. Bureau of Fire Protection
4. Philippine Statistics Agency
5. National Housing Authority
6. Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau
7. National Irrigation Administration
8. National Bureau of Investigation
9. National Commission on Indigenous People

#### Local Government Units:

##### Provincial

- Provincial Planning and Development Office
- Provincial Population Office
- South Cotabato Parole and Probation Office
- NCIP South Cotabato Provincial Office
- Provincial Accountant's Office
- Provincial Veterinary Office
- Provincial General Services Office
- PAFC So Cot
- Provincial Governor's Office- Internal Audit Service
- Provincial Agriculture Office -So.Cot
- Provincial Assessor's Office
- Provincial Budget Office
- Sangguniang Kabataan Presidents Federation

##### Municipal and Barangays

- Municipal Planning and Development Office
- Office of the Municipalities
- Office of the Punong Barangays

#### NGOs/Academe/Private Sectors

1. Mahinata Foundation, Inc.
2. Youth Alliance for Freedom of Information
3. Notre Dame of Marbel University
4. Order of DeMolay
5. Philippine Science High School
6. Ang Silab
7. Kabugwason Paglaum Scholarship Program Association
8. Youth for Peace Movement
9. DOLE Philippines School
10. South Cotabato Integrity Circle
11. MDFI
12. Philippine Youth Association of the Philippines

#### *F.6. How many groups participated in these space?*

Around 37 groups participated during the workshops not including those who were not able fill out the attendance form completely.



*F.7. How many meetings were held in the co-creation process?*

Three workshops were arranged for the co-creation process.

*F.8. How will government and non-governmental stakeholders continue to collaborate through the implementation of the action plan?*

Due to the pandemic, most collaborations will still be done online. Since we have the necessary contact information needed to communicate with our partners we could still get in touch with them through sending emails, chats or text messages and making phone calls too.

**G. Monitoring of the OGP Action Plan**

***\*Content of this will be finalized after the co-creation***

*G.1. what is the Independent Monitoring Body you have identified for this plan? Please describe and include contact details.*

The purpose of monitoring is to track implementation and outputs systemically, and measure the effectiveness of the implemented programs. The monitoring team will determine the progress of the activities and should be the basis for modification of interventions and assessment of the activities being conducted.

The monitoring body will be composed of the partners in Academe, the Youth Leaders, and Civil Society Organizations. The composition is critical for developing objective conclusions regarding the extent of the programs that will be used as basis of the implementing body as guide to employ, allocate, and re-allocate resources in efficient and effective manner.

*G.2. What types of activities will you have in place to discuss progress on commitments with stakeholders?*

Monitoring is very essential, this will serve as an instrument to measure the effectiveness of the program. Targets will help stakeholders focus on the results and motivate counterparts in ensuring that all objectives were properly accomplished.

Nonetheless, a regular collaboration meeting will be conducted or a special meeting to discuss developments of the implementation of commitment/s, and Identify problems and recommend solutions to ensure that all problems are aided with preferential actions and to resolve it effectively.

Initiating activities like campaigns and projects that will introduce and deepen the knowledge and awareness of the youth when it comes to the concepts of Freedom of Information and Open Contracting, furthermore, will let youth leaders take the helm in advocating them and serving as ambassadors of the advocacy by constantly involving them into the conversation and activities surrounding the Open Government initiatives of the province.

*G.3. how will you regularly check in on progress with implementing agencies?*

Aside from the collaboration meetings with the monitoring team that will discuss updates, progress status and work changes, it will also be presented during the conduct of Quarterly meetings of South Cotabato Integrity Circle (SCIC) with our partner Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to ensure the progress of the initiative, to maintain its momentum and to further capacitate the people involve.

#### ***G.4. How will you share results of your monitoring efforts with the public?***

Good communication is needed, this strategy is the best approach to share information to the public. On-time information dissemination can be an effective medium of communication. Thru the Integrated Provincial Online Database (IPOD) the Provincial Government of South Cotabato can properly disseminate information and thru social media pages managed by the PGSC and its partners. By this initiative, huge amount of citizens can easily access all the posted information. We can also reach out to more people through the following:

- Posting Banners
- Holding Radio Broadcasts
- Broadcasting it on Social Media (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram or Twitter)
- Word-of-mouth, spreading the information to as many people as we can

#### **H. Endorsement from Non-governmental Stakeholders**

***\*Content of this will be finalized after the co-creation***

***List the non-governmental stakeholders who participated in the co-creation process and endorse this action plan.***

1. Mahinata Foundation, Inc.
2. Youth Alliance for Freedom of Information
3. Notre Dame of Marbel University
4. Order of DeMolay
5. Philippine Science High School
6. Ang Silab
7. Kabugwason Paglaum Scholarship Program Association
8. Youth for Peace Movement
9. DOLE Philippines School
10. South Cotabato Integrity Circle
11. MDFI
12. Philippine Youth Association of the Philippines

#### **I. Full Open Government Strategy**

***\*Content of this will be finalized after the co-creation***

**Commitment**

### 1. Commitment Number

### 2. Commitment Title

Harnessing Youth Power in Integrating Open Government Values and Mechanisms to Respond to Local and Community-Interest Issues in the Province of South Cotabato

### 3. Timeframe

*Commitment Start Date: September 1, 2021*

*Commitment End Date: August 31, 2022*

### 4. Leading implementing agency

Name of Organization	Branch of Government	Name of Contact	Title	Email	Role in Implementation
Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of South Cotabato		Alyssa Marie Fale	SK Provincial Federation President	<a href="mailto:lyemarie775@gmail.com">lyemarie775@gmail.com</a>	Lead Implementor
PGO- Bids & Awards Division	PLGU	John Magbanua	Supervising Administrative Officer		Lead Implementor
PGO- Provincial Information Office	PLGU	Haydee Templonuevo			Lead Implementor
Provincial Population Office	PLGU	Jo ann Palacio	Population Program Officer II	<a href="mailto:joannpalacio83@gmail.com">joannpalacio83@gmail.com</a>	Lead Implementor

### 5. Leading implementing non-governmental stakeholder

Name of Organization	Name of Contact	Title	Email	Role in Implementation
Youth Alliance for Freedom of Information	Vino Lucero	Convenor	<a href="mailto:vino.lucero@gmail.com">vino.lucero@gmail.com</a>	Lead Implementor

### 6. Other stakeholders involved in the implementation of this commitment

Name of Organization	Name of Contact	Title	Email/Phone Number	Role in Implementation
KPSA	Ms. Angielyn S. Hambala			Coordinator
Koronadal Chapter No. 91- Order of DeMolay	Mr. Christian Bercades	Master Councilor	<a href="mailto:cbercades23@gmail.com">cbercades23@gmail.com</a> 09097515828	Coordinator
NDMU- Supreme Student Government	Mr. K-cir Derfson Daras	President	<a href="mailto:kcirderfsondaras@gmail.com">kcirderfsondaras@gmail.com</a> 09669844908	Coordinator
Dole	Ms. Danniela		<a href="mailto:drbabuso.dps@gmail.com">drbabuso.dps@gmail.com</a>	Coordinator

Philippines Intl School	Abuso		09107064972	
Youth for Peace Movement - TALBOS	Hon. Charles Larido			Coordinator
Philippine Science High School	Ms. Donna Janne Amorio			Coordinator
PYAP-PSWDO				Coordinator

## Commitment Description

### 7. Problem

Problems brought up in the multi-stakeholder meetings can be classified into three: Lack of Information on Public-Interest Issues, Lack of Capacity and/or Exposure to Best Practices, and Low Citizen Participation on Key Processes and Initiatives. A more detailed view of the issues raised can be seen below.

<i>Lack of Information</i>	<i>Lack of Capacity</i>	<i>Need for Increased Citizen Participation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of data about the youth coming from the barangay-level to add</li> <li>• Social-Education (information dissemination to all levels in terms of scholarships)</li> <li>• Infrastructure- Educating people about RRoW</li> <li>• Mental health- More aggressive programs about mental-health advocacies, psycho-social support</li> <li>• Environmental/Economic- Massive Fishkill in Lake Sebu</li> <li>• Environmental-Waste disposal/Sanitary landfill/Solid Waste Management-SK participation</li> <li>• Governance- Modernization/computerization of the LGU in terms of revenue generation, Public Financial Management and</li> <li>• Tourism- more aggressive info drive focusing on countryside farm tourism</li> <li>• Flow of information about</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance-SK- to be more equipped to do their duties/capacitation in terms of procurement, education on open legislation and in governance</li> <li>• Governance-DILG's Public Financial Management- Barangay-level</li> <li>• Peace and Order- Lack of support to law enforcers resulting to high crime rates</li> <li>• Lack of opportunity for the youth to increase their capacity/no follow-through on OC FOI and other OG initiatives</li> <li>• Lack of capacity of the youth to conduct situational analysis (Teenage pregnancy and early marriages)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of participation in good governance</li> <li>• Low number of qualified voters for the youth</li> <li>• Ambassadorship (75 ambassadors)</li> <li>• The youth sector being underrepresented</li> <li>• There is no existing advocacy youth groups in the area that focuses on Freedom of Information and Open Contracting.</li> </ul>

<p>the power outages from SOCOTECO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased in cyber-related crimes involving the youth (education about cyber safety)</li> <li>• The youth leaders in the province having very little knowledge when it comes to the concept of Freedom of Information and Open Contracting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The youth having limited access to government information and having limited or no access to the internet.</li> <li>• Introducing the concept of Open Government and establishment of basic deliverable for the commitments take time.</li> </ul>	
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## 8. Status quo

- The provincial government was able to successfully get the support and involvement of major civil society players in the province, including those involving the Provincial Development Council.
- The government has started its efforts to engage the youth but are having some difficulties in doing a follow through with the students and educators because of the pandemic.

## 9. Action

In the next year, the situation is primed for the Provincial Government of South Cotabato to work with civil society, youth leaders, and other members of the private sector in engaging the youth on their OGP Local program commitments. Therefore, they commit to do the following:

- To educate the youth by introducing the concept to them by going to schools and communities.
- To involve the youth by increasing their participation in the Open Government consultations and activities.
- To converge the youth by supporting the creation of new advocacy youth groups and by creating spaces and events for the youth interaction and collaboration.
- To lead the youth by providing opportunities for the youth leaders to speak on Freedom of Information and Open Contracting by providing space for them to initiate Open Government campaigns and activities on Freedom of Information and Open Contracting.
- To the academe, local advocacy groups, community leaders, business sector, and tech groups based in the province.

## **10. How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?**

*What are the expected outputs and outcomes once the commitment has been implemented?*

Output 1: Open Government Youth Ambassadorship Program

Outcome: At least 50 ambassadors trained on open government values, processes, and best practices.

Output 2: Issue-Based Freedom of Information Activations

Outcome: At least three issue-based activations tied to need for better access to government information facilitated.

Output 3: Issue-Based Open Government Capacity-Building Activities

Outcome: At least three capacity building activities related to locally relevant issues and Open Government values facilitated.

Output 4: Issue-Based Citizen Participation Drives

Outcome: At least three success stories on improving citizen participation in Open Government-related initiatives and locally relevant issues highlighted.

## **11. What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?**

To manifest the youth's important role in establishing and sustaining an Open Government that promotes both transparency and accountability. This movement also aspires to inspire other local governments to engage their youth in their undertakings to better our society.

## **12. Primary Policy Area**

*Please indicate the most relevant policy or practice for this commitment. Select up to two policy areas from the following list:*

*Fiscal Openness; Conflict of Interest; Asset Disclosure; Audits and Controls; Whistleblower Protection; Open Contracting; Public Procurement; Beneficial Ownership; Civic Space; Right to Information; Elections and Political Finance; Lobbying; Legislative Openness; Inclusion; Digital Governance; Pandemic Response; Safety Nets and Economic Inclusion; Tax; Stimulus and Economic Recovery; Regulatory Governance; Social Accountability.*

*Open Information*

*Open Contracting*

## **13. Primary Sector**

*Please indicate the most relevant primary sector for this commitment. Select up to sectors from the following list:*

*Private Sector; Media and Telecommunications; Education; Health and Nutrition; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Infrastructure and Transport; Extractive Industries; Environment*

*and Climate; Land and Spatial Planning; Science and Technology; Public Services (general); Justice; Legislature; Cross-sectoral; Security and Public Safety.*

**14. What OGP value is this commitment relevant to?**

*Select from the following list:*

*Transparency; Public Participation and Inclusion; Public Accountability; Technology/Innovation for Transparency; Technology/Innovation for Public Participation; Technology/Innovation for Accountability.*

Right to Information  
Social Accountability

**15. What resources are needed to achieve this commitment?**

*Please include budget, staff, time, and contributions of civil society and other organizations and any other resources required.*

- Budget for mobilization
- Human resource for the implementation
- Timeframe to conduct the activities like for seminar-workshops for the youth and other participating parties.
- Support from the civil society and other organizations.

**16. Are the resources needed to achieve this commitment already secured?**

**Yes/No/Partially**

**17. Milestones**

<b>Milestone #</b>	<b>Describe the Output</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Responsible Agency</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>
1: Open Government Youth Ambassador Program for the Youth of South Cotabato	At least 50 ambassadors trained on open government values, processes, and best practices.	September 1, 2021	August 31, 2021	Youth Alliance for FOI, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of South Cotabato, and Provincial Population Office of South Cotabato	Mr. Vino Lucero, Hon. Alyssa Marie Fale and Ms. Jo-anne Palacio
2: Issue-based	At least three issue-based activations	September 1, 2021	August 31, 2021	Youth Alliance for	Mr. Vino Lucero, Hon.

Freedom of Activations – in Collaboration with the Youth of South Cotabato and for the People of the Province of South Cotabato	<p>tied to need for better access to government information facilitated.</p> <p>The issues to be focused here will be based on a shortlist created during the co-creation sessions.</p>			FOI and Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of South Cotabato	Alyssa Marie Fale and Ms. Jo-anne Palacio
3: Issue-Based Open Government Capacity-Building Activities – for the Youth and Community Leaders of South Cotabato	<p>At least three capacity building activities related to locally relevant issues and Open Government values facilitated.</p> <p>The topics to be focused on the capacity-building sessions will be based on a shortlist created during the co-creation sessions.</p>	September 1, 2021	August 31, 2021	Youth Alliance for FOI, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of South Cotabato, and Provincial Population Office of South Cotabato	Mr. Vino Lucero, Hon. Alyssa Marie Fale and Ms. Jo-anne Palacio
4: Focus Issues Citizen Participation Drives	<p>At least three success stories on improving citizen participation in Open Government-related initiatives and locally relevant issues highlighted.</p>	September 1, 2021	August 31, 2021	Youth Alliance for FOI, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of South Cotabato, and Provincial Population Office of South Cotabato	Mr. Vino Lucero, Hon. Alyssa Marie Fale and Ms. Jo-anne Palacio

## 18. Additional Information [Optional]

*Use this optional space to provide other useful information, for example:*

- *Links to other government programs*
- *Links to national development plan or other sectoral or local plans*
- *Links to the Sustainable Development Goals*
- *Gender perspective analysis*

<https://neda.gov.ph/soccsksargen-launches-regional-development-plan/>



<https://www.slideshare.net/neda12webmaster/regional-development-plan-20172022>

<https://ipod.southcotabato.gov.ph/>

<https://www.facebook.com/provlgovtsocot/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PPDOPGSC/>