

COMMITMENTS

Commitment 1	
Thematic Area: Access to Information	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION: Strengthening Access to Government Information and Services by Utilizing Multiple Communication Channels	
June 2026 to April 2028	
Lead Implementing Agency/Actor	Office of the Provincial Information Officer
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Problem: Ineffective and uneven access to government information, coupled with inconsistent public trust across communication channels in South Cotabato. Thematic Problem: Mismatch between usage and trust of communication channels Evidence: High usage vs. lower trust in social media (A communication research conducted by the Office of the Provincial Information Officer entitled: Understanding Information Access and Trust: A Study of Communication Channel Preferences of Sectoral Communities in South Cotabato) 86.7% use social media regularly, and it is the top source of news (Rank 1) - But it ranks lower in trust (Rank 4) compared to government websites, TV, and radio Trust is highest in official and traditional channels - Government websites (Rank 1), television (Rank 2), radio (Rank 3) Sectoral differences in preferences - Government employees → prefer digital platforms - Community-based sectors/IPs → rely more on radio, TV, barangay officials - Strong demand for accessible and credible communication - Top reasons for preference: - Easy to access - Clear information - Comes from officials - Communities emphasize trust and familiarity 160 respondents said: <i>People trust known and familiar sources</i>
What is the current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan?	At the start of the action plan, government information in South Cotabato is widely disseminated but not consistently accessible and trusted across all sectoral communities. While social media ensures broad reach, trusted sources remain official platforms and traditional media, revealing a gap between access and credibility. Differences in channel preferences and existing gaps in media and information literacy further result in uneven access, vulnerability to misinformation, and limited public engagement.
What is the commitment?	The Provincial Government of South Cotabato commits to strengthening open, inclusive, and trustworthy public communication by adopting a multi-channel

	information system that integrates digital platforms, traditional media, and community-based networks. It will ensure that government information is accessible, accurate, timely, and delivered in clear and localized language through verified and trusted channels. The commitment also includes enhancing media and information literacy among communities to empower citizens to access, evaluate, and engage with government information responsibly, thereby improving transparency, public trust, and citizen participation.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The commitment will address the public problem by bridging the gap between information access and trust through a coordinated, multi-channel communication system that combines social media, official platforms, traditional media, and community networks. By ensuring that information is clear, localized, timely, and delivered through verified and familiar sources, it increases both reach and credibility across diverse sectors. At the same time, strengthening media and information literacy will empower citizens to critically evaluate information, reducing vulnerability to misinformation and enabling more informed participation in government programs and decision-making.
What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?	This commitment contributes to the long-term goal of building a transparent, inclusive, and participatory governance system in South Cotabato, where all citizens have equitable access to accurate and timely government information. It supports the vision of strengthened public trust and accountability, by ensuring that information is not only open but also credible and understandable across all sectors. Ultimately, it advances the goal of empowered and informed citizen participation, enabling communities to actively engage in governance, decision-making, and development processes.
Primary Policy Area	<i>Inclusion, Right to Information</i>
Primary Sector	<i>Public Services (general)</i>
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Transparency It promotes open and accessible government information by ensuring that accurate, timely, and verified information is delivered through multiple platforms, making government actions and programs more visible to the public. Public Participation By improving access, clarity, and localization of information, the commitment enables citizens from all sectors to better understand issues and actively engage in governance, decision-making, and community development. Accountability Strengthening trusted and official communication channels, along with enhancing media and information literacy, empowers citizens to scrutinize information, verify sources, and hold government accountable for its actions and commitments. Overall, the commitment operationalizes OGP principles by making information not only open, but also inclusive, usable, and trustworthy for meaningful citizen engagement.
Additional information	--

Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable	Responsibility and Name of Contact/email	Source of Fund	Start Date	End Date
Planning and Preparation of Calibrating the open government campaign	Lead Implementing Government Agency: OPIO, PLO, OPPO, OPSWDO, OPCDO, People's Council, P/C/MLGUs, DILG Lead implementing non-governmental stakeholder: Other Stakeholders Involved in the implementation of this commitment (e.g. Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Community Groups, Private Sector, or Working Groups):	OPIO	December 2025	December 2025
Implementation of open government communication activities:		OPIO	January 2026	December 2026
<i>Pulong-Pulong sa Katawhan</i> an open discussion with local media and identified department heads. It is conducted in a strategic open space where citizens and netizens could participate. It is aired over the official Facebook Page of the Provincial Government of South Cotabato. The Provincial Information Officer facilitates the improvised town hall discussion.		OPIO	January 2026	December 2026
<i>Governor Meets the Press</i> is a communication activity wherein the governor sits with the local media to answer latest concerns and issues. It is aired over the official FB page of the provincial government of South Cotabato. Questions vary from hard to light questions from the media and the netizens and collected by the information officers.		OPIO	January 2026	December 2026
<i>Hinun-anon sa Kapitolyo</i> is a podcast that indulge on the success stories of the programs and projects of the Provincial Capitol. Majority of the guests are program holders who provided in-depth discussions about PPAs. This serves as an avenue also for beneficiaries to talk about how the PPAs impacted their lives.		OPIO		
<i>RST in Action Radio Program</i> is a paid radio program aired in a local radio station. It is a one-hour radio program every Mondays and Wednesdays that tackles weekly news and information about South Cotabato and Gov. Tamayo's updates. A time is allocated in the radio		OPIO	January 2026	December 2026

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program for a discussion between guests from the provincial government of South Cotabato and beneficiaries of the PPAs.				
OGP and FOI corner in the official website of the Provincial Government of South Cotabato presents the achievements of the province in Freedom of Information and Open Government Partnership. In the corner includes the FOI request form, citizen charter, customer satisfaction survey and FAQs about FOI, budget, procurement, project monitoring, and office accomplishment reports.		OPIO	February 2026	May 2026
Radio distribution (solar-powered) to underserved and unserved communities in South Cotabato to ensure that access to communication about the projects, program, and activities are disseminated to far-flung areas. This is part of the Communication Access Program of the Office of the Provincial Information Officer. The radios are not just equipment—they are a communication infrastructure intervention.		OPIO	February 2026	December 2026
Communication research about information needs assessment will give OPIO information about information needs of far-flung communities and their information access capacity. The research will also identify where people get information about government programs, their listening behavior, and household coverage		OPIO	January 2026	December 2026