



Republic of the Philippines
Province of South Cotabato
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
City of Koronadal, South Cotabato
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Minister of Justice
Government of Georgia

MR. SCOTT BRISON

President of the Treasury Board
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MR. MUKELANI DIMBA

Head of Development
International School of Transparency

MR. NATHANIEL HELLER

Executive Vice President for Integrated Strategies
Results for Development

Dear **Open Government Partnership Co-chairs:**

I am deeply honored to express, on behalf of the Provincial Government of South Cotabato (PGSC) our intention to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local Program. As a 4-time awardee on good governance (Galing Pook Awardee¹), the PGSC² firmly believes that transparency and proper management of resources are key in successfully reducing poverty and providing the necessities to many, if not all the people of South Cotabato.

In order to achieve this, we have been implementing reform measures to enhance transparency, accountability and citizen participation within our local government. To cite as an example, we have an integrity program called **South Cotabato for Integrity and Jobs**, which was developed to fully incorporate integrity and good governance in the delivery of our services to the public. This initiative consists of mechanisms or strategic interventions corresponding to our four (4) spheres of institutionalization. Under this program, we set doable short-term and long-term strategic priorities that need to be implemented in order to realize our goals of inclusive growth and poverty reduction through integrity and the sustainable creation of jobs. Among these mechanisms are the following:

1. The Creation of Barangay Empowerment Committees
– this multi-stakeholder platform is a mechanism that aims to strengthen transparency and boost proper, lawful, judicious and effective utilization of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) at the barangay/village level.
2. Initiating an Integrity Pact with Suppliers and Key Clients from the Business Sector
– this aims to encourage suppliers and partners from the business sector, the civil society and communities to enter into an integrity commitment with the provincial government prior to engagement in transactions and all forms of partnership.
3. Conduct of Third-party Survey on the Level of Public Satisfaction on the Services Extended by the Provincial Local Government Unit (PLGU)
– this mechanism aims to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in the economic, social, infrastructure, environment, disaster risk reduction, and

¹ Please access the following link to learn more about the Galing Pook Awards: <http://www.galingpook.org/awards>

² For more information about the awards received by the PGSC, please visit: <http://www.southcotabato.gov.ph/south-cotabato-awards/>

institutional sectors of development and gauge the extent by which these services and programs are delivered and implemented with integrity.

4. Establishment of Computerized / Web-based Project Information and Monitoring System for Funded Plans, Programs and Activities (PPAs)
– this real-time web-based project information and monitoring system aims to strengthen records keeping as well as function as a database of all major programs and infrastructures of the province.
5. Integration of Existing IT Systems and Development of Other Systems – this mechanism aims to provide a more transparent and efficient way of delivering services to the public.

For a summary of all other integrity mechanisms that we have put in place within our local government, please access the following link:
<http://www.southcotabato.gov.ph/transparency/integrity-mechanisms-2/>.

The reduction and elimination of poverty in our province has always been our top priority. As frontliners in public service delivery, we believe that the best way to achieve our goals of making sure that our anti-poverty programs reach and concretely benefit our people is by directly engaging them in the whole local governance process. This is why we have been active partners with citizens and civil society organizations, such as the Mahintana Foundation and South Cotabato Foundation, for more than ten years now.

As we have also been actively engaged in the Philippine OGP efforts in the past years, we are also one with our national government's advocacy and the movement to promote transparency, accountability and citizen engagement through co-creation of local plans and programs that directly respond to the needs of our constituents.

By being an OGP Subnational member, we look forward to helping build a global community of practice where we can share our experience, and at the same time, engage and learn from our peers and other development partners in the international open government space on public sector reforms that will bring our government closer to the people.

Hence, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude in considering us to be part of the Open Government Partnership Local Program. Should you have any queries or concerns regarding our application, feel free to contact our Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Ms. Jennifer C. Bretaña, EnP, through these numbers: +6383 – 228 – 2443 or 9325 and +63 917 572 5233. She can also be reached through this address: Provincial Planning and Development Office, Provincial Capitol Compound, Alunan Avenue, Barangay Zone III, City of Koronadal, South Cotabato, Philippines 9506. Finally, if you would like to know more about our province, please visit our website, <http://www.southcotabato.gov.ph/>.

Sincerely,


DAISY P. AVANCE FUENTES,
Provincial Governor