



January 10, 2024

RUDI BORRAMANN
Deputy Director
OGP Local

Thru: **LEOCADIO TROVELA, CESO III**
Regional Director
Department of the Interior & Local Government
Regional Office No. 7
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City, 6000

Sir:

Greetings of Peace!

I am writing to convey the sincere interest and enthusiasm of the citizens of Tagbilaran City in applying for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local initiative. As the Mayor of Tagbilaran City, I am wholeheartedly dedicated to promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in our governance processes.

The OGP Local initiative perfectly aligns with our city's vision and goals, and I am convinced that becoming a member of this global network will bring numerous benefits to Tagbilaran City and its constituents. By actively participating in the OGP Local initiative, we aim to achieve our goals more effectively and meaningfully.

I am confident that our city has much to contribute to the OGP network, and we anticipate gaining valuable insights from the knowledge and experiences shared by other members. In this regard, I kindly request your support and approval to proceed with the application process for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local initiative on behalf of the City Government of Tagbilaran.

I want to assure you that our administration is committed to dedicating our efforts and resources to actively participate in the OGP Local network. We are prepared to implement the necessary reforms and initiatives to uphold the OGP principles and contribute meaningfully to the global network.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I eagerly anticipate your positive response and the opportunity to work collaboratively towards a more open, accountable, and citizen-centered government for the benefit of the people of Tagbilaran City.

Yours sincerely,

JANE CENSORIA C. YAP
Tagbilaran City Mayor

CC: **Jerome G. Gonzales**
Provincial Director – DILG – Bohol
Raja Sikatuna Ave., Tagbilaran City, Bohol



LETTER OF SUPPORT

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the City Government of Tagbilaran's Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative, which upholds the values of Access to Information, Civic Participation, Public Accountability, and Technology and Innovation for openness and accountability.

As the Mayor of Tagbilaran City, I am committed to fostering a transparent, inclusive, and efficient government. The OGP principles align perfectly with our goal to create an environment where citizens actively participate in decision-making processes and hold their government accountable.

Access to Information is a fundamental pillar of transparency. By providing timely and comprehensive information, we empower our citizens to make informed decisions and actively engage in civic affairs. We believe that an informed citizenry is crucial for the success of our democratic society.

I am proud to share that the City Government of Tagbilaran wholeheartedly adopts the Freedom of Information Policy of the government and applies it in all government endeavors. We are committed to promoting transparency and accountability by ensuring that information is readily accessible to the public.

Under this policy, we strive to provide clear and concise information about our programs, projects, and policies. We are dedicated to responding to information requests in a timely manner, ensuring that our citizens have the necessary information to participate actively in governance. By embracing the Freedom of Information Policy, we aim to foster trust and confidence in our government. We understand that transparency is not only a legal obligation but also a moral imperative. We believe that the public has the right to know how their government operates and how decisions are made.

Through the implementation of this policy, we will continue to enhance our communication channels, making information easily accessible through various platforms. We will also work towards proactively sharing information, ensuring that our citizens are well-informed about the activities and initiatives of the City Government.

Civic Participation lies at the heart of a thriving democracy. We value the active involvement of our citizens in shaping policies, programs, and projects that affect their lives. By creating platforms for meaningful engagement, we ensure that the voices of our constituents are heard and their perspectives are considered.

I am pleased to inform you that the City Government of Tagbilaran has taken significant steps to enhance civic participation by establishing ties with non-governmental stakeholders. We recognize the invaluable contributions of civil society organizations and the importance of their involvement in decision-making processes.

To facilitate collaboration and dialogue, the Tagbilaran City People's Council (TCPC) stands a coalition representing 138 accredited and 38 recognized Civil Society Organizations in our jurisdiction was formed through an ordinance in the City of Tagbilaran. This council serves as a platform for representatives from various sectors of society to come together and provide input on matters of public interest. Through regular meetings and consultations, we actively seek the perspectives and expertise of our citizens to shape policies and initiatives.



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Additionally, we have set up a dedicated Civil Society Organization (CSO) desk within the City Government. This desk serves as a liaison between the government and CSOs, ensuring that their needs and concerns are addressed effectively. It provides a streamlined channel for coordination, enabling CSOs to actively participate in meetings and decision-making processes that require their presence or opinion.

By establishing these mechanisms, we aim to foster a culture of collaboration and inclusivity. We believe that by working hand in hand with our citizens and civil society organizations, we can create policies and programs that truly reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

Public Accountability is essential for building trust between the government and the people we serve. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct in our governance. Through transparency, oversight, and accountability mechanisms, we aim to instill confidence in our constituents that their interests are being safeguarded.

In line with our commitment to public accountability, the City Government of Tagbilaran has implemented a robust feedback mechanism to address the public's concerns. We value the opinions and feedback of our citizens and recognize the importance of their active participation in the governance process. Through this mechanism, we encourage citizens to voice their concerns, suggestions, and complaints, allowing us to address them promptly and effectively.

Furthermore, our agency adheres to the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) policies, which promote efficiency, transparency, and accountability in public service delivery. Each office within the City Government has developed a Citizen's Charter in coherence with the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) law. These charters outline the services provided by each office, the processes involved, and the corresponding timelines. By adhering to these charters, we ensure that our services are delivered in a timely and efficient manner, with clear standards of accountability.

Through these initiatives, we strive to create an environment where our citizens have confidence in the integrity and accountability of our government. We believe that by actively engaging with the public, addressing their concerns, and streamlining our processes, we can build a stronger and more responsive government that truly serves the needs of our citizens.

Technology and Innovation play a vital role in promoting openness and accountability. We recognize the power of technology to enhance service delivery, streamline processes, and improve the overall efficiency of our government. By embracing innovation, we can adapt to the changing needs of our citizens and provide them with better access to government services.

I am delighted to share that the City Government of Tagbilaran is fully committed to embracing digitalization programs in the implementation of our programs, particularly in the business sector. We understand the importance of utilizing technology to improve the ease of doing business and enhance the overall experience for both businesses and citizens.

One of our key focuses is on digitalized or cashless payments. We believe that by promoting digital payment methods, we can enhance transparency, efficiency, and security in financial transactions. Digitalized payments not only reduce the risks associated with cash handling but also provide a convenient and seamless experience for businesses and citizens alike.

BABA
☎ 038 412-2222
City Hall Hotline:

3rd Floor, New City Hall Building, Corner J. A. Clarin and Calceta Streets, Barangay Cogon, City of Tagbilaran 4300, Bohol

Vision: "A Highly Urbanized, Resilient and Livable City by 2030"

☎ Landline: 038 422-8011
✉ cgotagbilaran@yahoo.com

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To encourage the adoption of digitalization, we are actively working to create awareness and educate our citizens about the benefits and convenience of digital payments. We are partnering with financial institutions and technology providers to ensure that businesses have the necessary infrastructure and support to accept digital payments.

Through these efforts, we aim to create a digital ecosystem that enables businesses to thrive and citizens to embrace the convenience of digital transactions. By providing better access to government services through digital channels, we can improve efficiency and convenience for our citizens.

Furthermore, we are exploring innovative solutions to streamline processes and improve service delivery. We are investing in digital platforms and systems that automate and digitize various government processes, reducing paperwork, and minimizing the need for physical interactions. This not only saves time and resources but also enhances transparency and accountability in the delivery of services.

By embracing technology and innovation, we are creating a more open and accessible government. We are committed to leveraging digital solutions to bridge the gap between the government and our citizens, ensuring that information and services are readily available and easily accessible.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly express my full support to the City Government of Tagbilaran's Open Government Partnership. Together, let us work hand in hand to create a more transparent, participatory, and accountable government that truly serves the needs of our citizens.

Thank you for your attention, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead through this partnership.

Sincerely,

JANE CENSORIA C. YAP
Tagbilaran City Mayor

Conforme:

MARIETTA S. GASATAN
Chairperson, Tagbilaran City People's Council (TCPC)



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TAGBILARAN CITY PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

c/o Tagbilaran City CSO Desk, G/F Tagbilaran City Hall Building, Cogon, Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Tel. No. +63 38 411-2222 loc. 105/106

January 10, 2024

RUDI BORRAMANN
Deputy Director
OGP Local

Thru: Philippine Open Government Partnership
2/F DBM Building I, General Solano Street, San Miguel Manila
(02) 8657 3300 local 1204A

Subject: Letter of Support for Tagbilaran City's Membership in OGP Local

Dear Rudi Borramann;

I am writing on behalf of the esteemed officers and members of the Tagbilaran City People's Council, a coalition of 138 accredited and 38 recognized Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the City of Tagbilaran. It is with great enthusiasm that we express our firm commitment to align with the interests of the City Government by endorsing and supporting Tagbilaran City's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local Network in collaboration with the Department of Budget and Management.

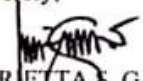
In my capacity as the chairperson of the council, I am confident in the genuine dedication of Mayor Jane C. Yap to fostering good governance. Mayor Yap's commitment to partnering with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is clearly demonstrated through the enactment of a comprehensive platform for people's participation in governance, as highlighted in City Ordinance No. C-352, series of 2023. This commitment is further solidified by concrete financial support and the establishment of an institutionalized CSO Desk, both aimed at strengthening and facilitating people's participation in city governance.

Mayor Yap's invaluable dedication to incorporating CSOs into local governance serves as a source of inspiration for us. Recognizing the potential for further enriching our CSO-LGU engagement through OGP Local, we are enthusiastic about fortifying our mechanisms. This initiative is designed to enhance our capacity to exert influence on the local government's budgeting processes, fostering active CSO participation across all stages, including planning, budgeting, procurement, implementation, and collaborative monitoring of programs and services.

Together, we eagerly anticipate advancing our shared commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance through our active participation in the OGP Local Network. We believe that this collaborative effort will contribute significantly to the enhancement of governance practices in Tagbilaran City.

Thank you for considering our letter of support. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration and the positive impact it will have on our community.

Sincerely,


MARIETTA S. GASATAN
Chairperson