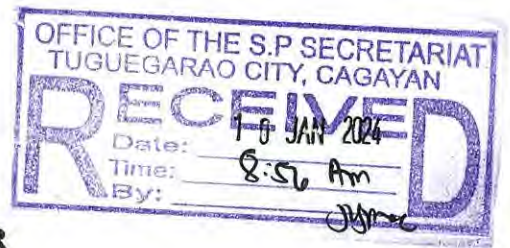




Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
TUGUEGARAO CITY

OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR



09 January 2024

THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND MEMBERS
Sangguniang Panlungsod
This City

Dear *Presiding Officer and Members of the Sanggunian*:

Herewith is the draft Memorandum of Agreement between the Tuguegarao City Government and Commission on Filipinos Overseas relative to the **BaLinkBayan Project** for your information and appropriate action.

This matter is certified as **URGENT** pursuant to Article 107 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.

Thank you!

In the name of public service,


MAILA ROSARIO S. TING-QUE
City Mayor 

Copy furnished:

- *City Administrator's Office*
- *PESO*
- *City Legal Office*



04 January 2024

HON. MAILA ROSARIO S. TING-QUE

City Government of Tuguegarao
2/F Tuguegarao City Hall, Carig Sur,
Tuguegarao City, Cagayan 3500

Attention: Atty. Renz Umambong, Mayor's Office

Dear Mayor Ting-Que:

Greetings from the **Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)**!

As we continue to strengthen our cooperation with local government units to benefit overseas Filipinos, we are writing to follow up on our proposed collaboration on **BaLinkBayan: the Overseas Filipinos One-Stop Online Portal for Diaspora Engagement**.

As background, the BaLinkBayan Project is the CFO's endeavor to assist overseas Filipinos in conducting various activities in the Philippines, such as investments, donations, and skills transfer. Likewise, it aims to link overseas Filipinos with the Philippines and encourage them to become development partners in building communities in the Philippines.

The project, which can be accessed through www.balinkbayan.gov.ph, also brings together more than ten (10) million Filipinos overseas through an integrated and comprehensive online platform that taps into their knowledge, expertise, skills, networks, material, and financial resources to contribute to the development of the Philippines.



Phase II of the Project saw the creation of dedicated localized portals tailor-fit to the needs of LGUs for migrants and their families. To date, we have partnered with forty-six (46) LGUs in the Philippines, strongly facilitating migration and development at the local level.

In line with this, may we request to meet you or your representatives via Zoom on 09 January 2024 (Tuesday), 02:30 PM to discuss our proposed BaLinkBayan partnership. We also plan to visit your office on 07 February 2024 (Wednesday) to present in detail the BaLinkBayan Project. This partnership can better serve our *kababayan* hailing from Tuguegarao, Cagayan, through our collective efforts.

Ms. Patricia Marie Salvador of the Project Management Division will coordinate with your office regarding this matter. She may be reached through email addresses **pmd@cfo.gov.ph** or **psalvador@cfo.gov.ph** and telephone number **0960 343 3526**.

Thank you, and we are hoping for your favorable response.

Very truly yours,



SECRETARY ROMULO V. ARUGAY
Chairperson

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS, a government agency under the Office of the President, created on 16 June 1980 through Batas Pambansa Bilang 79, with office at The Upper Class Tower, 20th and 21st Floors, Quezon Avenue cor. Scout Reyes Street, Diliman, Quezon City, herein represented by its Secretary and Chairperson, **ROMULO V. ARUGAY**, and hereinafter referred to as "**CFO**";

-and-

CITY GOVERNMENT OF TUGUEGARAO, with office at Tuguegarao City Hall, Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan 3500 herein represented by its Mayor, **HON. MAILA ROSARIO S. TING-QUE**, and hereinafter referred to as "**CITY GOVERNMENT OF TUGUEGARAO.**"

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, in 2017, according to the World Bank, overseas Filipinos remitted about US\$32 billion to the Philippine economy;

WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage overseas Filipinos to engage more effectively in the development processes in the homeland;

WHEREAS, there is a need to offer an updated and responsive streamlined system of engagement for overseas Filipinos in areas like diaspora investment, entrepreneurship, diaspora philanthropy, medical missions, advocacy, legal assistance, arts, culture and educational exchanges, technology and science transfers;

WHEREAS, CFO envisions a community of well-respected, and proudly competitive Filipinos overseas who contribute significantly to the productivity and well-being of the country where they reside or work while maintaining strong political, economic, and cultural ties with the Philippines;

WHEREAS, CFO aims to be the country's premier institution in promoting policies, programs and projects with Migration and Development as a framework for empowering the community of Filipinos overseas;

Memorandum of Agreement between the CFO and City Government of Tuguegarao

WHEREAS, CFO aims to harness the energies and resources of overseas Filipinos through the e-governance project called **BALINKBAYAN: “OVERSEAS FILIPINOS’ ONE-STOP ONLINE PORTAL FOR DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT”**;

WHEREAS, CFO, through *BaLinkBayan*, endeavors to provide mechanisms to effectively mainstream Migration and Development at the local level through the localization of the *BaLinkBayan* project;

WHEREAS, localization means the establishment, development, and maintenance of the *BaLinkBayan* webpage featuring Migration and Development initiatives specific to the chosen province, city, or towns;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Tuguegarao is home to a significant number of overseas Filipino families;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Tuguegarao calls for an efficient, rationalized, and streamlined system of engagement for overseas Filipinos especially in the areas of diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, diaspora philanthropy, medical and dental missions, volunteer work, educational, and social services;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Tuguegarao is strongly committed to develop overseas Filipinos, *BaLinkBayan* websites will serve as a vehicle to establish linkages and strengthen ties with overseas Filipinos; and

WHEREAS, the Parties committed to the country’s goals of inclusive growth, poverty reduction and full human development.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the Parties do hereby pledge their full support to the localization of the e-governance project *BaLinkBayan: OVERSEAS FILIPINOS’ ONE-STOP ONLINE PORTAL FOR DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT*, and herein mutually agree to the following;

1. The responsibilities and roles of CFO under this MOA are as follows:

- a. Assist in identifying the required data, such as investments, donations, skills transfer, etc., for the localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage tailor-fit for the City Government of Tuguegarao;
- b. Assist the City Government of Tuguegarao in gathering relevant data and information for the localized webpage, as well as collaborating with other relevant agencies and stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels;

- c. Conduct and undertake necessary website development and management training, workshop or mentoring assistance in coordination with the City Government of Tuguegarao and its personnel to meet the objectives of this MOA;
- d. Provide website hosting facilities for the localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage of the City Government of Tuguegarao for two years;
- e. Provide and maintain relevant and updated training and/or workshop for the implementation and operationalization of the localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage of the City Government of Tuguegarao;
- f. Promote the localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage of the City Government of Tuguegarao by providing a link to the *BaLinkBayan* national website;
- g. Assist the City Government of Tuguegarao in its development and implementation of Migration and Development programs and initiatives;
- h. Assign a focal officer at CFO to coordinate and oversee with the City Government of Tuguegarao in the project implementation; and
- i. Monitor and evaluate the implementation and operation of the project jointly with the City Government of Tuguegarao to recommend the best strategies and options for sustainability.

2. The responsibilities and roles of the City Government of Tuguegarao under this MOA are as follows:

- a. Take the lead in data gathering and processing for the City Government of Tuguegarao localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage content;
- b. Create a Technical Working Group or assign a focal person occupying a *plantilla* position within the city to oversee the project implementation;
- c. Participate in relevant training and/or workshop and give logistical assistance for the implementation and operationalization of the localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage of the City Government of Tuguegarao;
- d. Provide, manage and maintain the database and main information system of the localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage;

- e. Regularly update the contents of the localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage;
- f. Promote the localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage to its local constituents, overseas Filipinos and their families;
- g. Promote the *BaLinkBayan* portal at the City Government of Tuguegarao's website and through other platforms; and
- h. After two years, the City Government of Tuguegarao is expected to continue the hosting of the localized *BaLinkBayan* webpage.

3. **BOTH PARTIES** shall:

- a. Establish a monitoring mechanism regarding this joint collaboration and exchange of information to address issues confronting them relative to the project implementation; and
- b. Share overseas Filipino-related information through newsletters, email blasts and press releases.

FUNDING

This MOA will be subject to the availability of funds and other resources of the Parties. The cost of the activities and the performance of the Parties' responsibilities under this MOA will be shouldered by each party.

DURATION AND EFFECTIVITY OF THE MOA

This MOA shall take effect immediately upon the signing of the Parties hereto and shall be valid and existing unless earlier revoked, cancelled, or terminated for cause. Any party wishing to terminate this MOA shall inform the other party by giving six (6) months in writing.

AMENDMENTS

At any time while this MOA is in effect, any provision hereof may be amended, revised or supplemented with the written consent of the parties involved.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have hereunto affixed their signatures this _____ day of _____ 2024, in the City Government of Tuguegarao, Philippines.

**COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS
OVERSEAS**

**CITY GOVERNMENT
OF TUGUEGARAO**

By:

By:

SECRETARY ROMULO V. ARUGAY
Chairperson

HON. MAILA ROSARIO S. TING-QUE
City Mayor

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

MARITA DEL ROSARIO-APATTAD
Director, Project Management Division
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

City Government of Tuguegarao

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Republic of the Philippines)
Quezon City) S.S.

Before me, a Notary Public for and in the Quezon City, personally appeared on this day _____ of 2024, the following:

NAME	ID NO.	DATE/PLACE ISSUED
ROMULO V. ARUGAY	_____	_____

MAILA ROSARIO S. TING-QUE _____

Known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed, and the entities they duly represent.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL, on the date and at the place above written.

PUBLIC

NOTARY

Doc. No.: _____;
Page No.: _____;
Book No.: _____;
Series of: 2024.