



FOI Practice Report of Checkmyschool (CMS) Philippines, ANSA-EAP (as of February 20, 2017)

I. ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

The ANSA-EAP Foundation, Inc. implements CheckMySchool (CMS), a participatory monitoring initiative for the education sector in the Philippines. It started in 2011 as an experimental partnership project with the Department of Education along with the advocacy for access to information and social accountability. CMS now has a wide network of civil-society and community groups nationwide, which covered more than a thousand schools in its last cycle of operations. CMS continuously aims to help improve services in schools through active citizen monitoring and collaborative problem-solving.

Using blended online and offline mechanisms for communications, CMS mobilizes volunteers and stakeholders from civil society and community. They are organized and capacitated to facilitate (1) access to school information, (2) feedbacking to government authorities, and (3) resolution of issues.

Volunteers access school information, such as those on enrolment, classrooms, seats, textbooks, budget, achievement test results, and other data relevant to the community. They also monitor other concerns, such as school health and nutrition, expenditures, as well as procurement deliveries. The updated school data are used as bases for raising issues in interface meetings with the education department and local government officials, as well as with other key stakeholders. Based on an action plan formulated through the interface meetings, responsible stakeholders are mapped and approached to address the issue or problem.

II. CONTEXT OF THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

Based on its fifth cycle data, the schools' usual issues pertain to classroom construction or repair, chairs and tables, textbooks and learning materials, water utilities, toilets, and

ICT. Many of these issues pertain to the schools' use or misuse of MOOE, so information on its utilization is crucial.

To enhance our capacity in addressing various school issues, particularly those pertaining to MOOE, CMS is conducting a study to identify the responsible offices and to formulate a process framework in solving MOOE issues and concerns. The same output can be also used to spin off an app that CMS local partners can use to gain knowledge about the protocols and processes in engaging different stakeholders and government agencies. The end goal is to be able to operationalize the framework to be drawn to help CMS local partners in solving local school issues.

III. DOCUMENT REQUESTED

CMS requested for **MOOE utilization report for FY 2015**.

IV. RESULTS

CMS FOI Practice Logsheet from September – October 2016

Action Done	Topic	Budget Division Contact Details	Date	Time	Response	Person-in-charge
Desktop research	FY 2015 MOOE Utilization	n/a	29-Sep			Hannah
Desktop research	Office that handles MOOE budget	n/a	29-Sep			Wilson
Called DepEd	Verify offic that handles MOOE	Budget Division	29-Sep			Wilson
Called DepEd	Know the specific person whom the letter shall be addressed	Budget Division	29-Sep			Wilson
Draft letter	Letter of request	Selwyn C. Briones	29-Sep			Wilson and Hannah
Fax Letter	Letter of request	637-4214	3-Oct	2:40 PM	Received by Jesus dela Merced	Wilson
Emailed Letter	Letter of request	selwynwyn@yahoo.com.ph and jesus.delamerced@deped.gov.ph	Oct 3	2:49 PM		Hannah
DepEd Replied	Mr. Jesus Dela Merced forwarded our request to Mr. Briones	Jesus dela Merced of DepEd	Oct 6	9:23 AM		Hannah

Team update	Updated the FOI team on the actions taken by CMS	n/a	Oct 7	n/a	n/a	Wilson
Follow up DepEd	Request of FY 2015 MOOE Utilization	Selwyn Briones and Jesus dela Merced of DepEd	Oct 13	12:20 PM	no go signal yet from Mr. Briones (OIC)	Hannah
Follow up DepEd (phone)	Request of FY 2015 MOOE Utilization	Sir Jess	Oct 27	3:20 PM	no go signal yet from OIC; CMS is requested to go to the office to ask it personally	Wilson
Follow up DepEd (email)	Request of FY 2015 MOOE Utilization	Sir Briones	Oct 27	3:30 PM		Wilson

V. DISCUSSION

1. The request had been lodged the information request via email and fax to the Department of Education through its Budget Office last October 3, 2016. As of February 20, 2017, after four (4) months, CMS had not received the document requested.

2. **Availability vs. Accessibility.** During our follow-up correspondence from October 6-13 with the staff of the Budget Office, we were constantly reassured of the availability of the information requested. However, as a matter of protocol, the file could not be transmitted to CMS due to the absence of the go-signal of Mr. Selwyn Briones, OIC of the Budget Office.

3. Last October 27, during our 3rd follow-up call to the Budget Office, Mr. Jesus de la Merced of the Budget Office informed us that the OIC had not yet given the clearance to transmit the file to CMS.

4. As of March 14, 2017, CMS had not yet received the requested file from the Budget Office.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Remove the clearance requirement for documents not enlisted in the list of exception for easier access to information.

2. Disseminate the MOOE utilization report of schools in the DepEd website for full public disclosure.