

The Philippines

Open Budget Index 2006



Open Budget Index Highlights

The Philippines scores 51 percent out of a possible 100 percent on the *Open Budget Index 2006*. The index evaluates the quantity of information provided to citizens in the seven key budget documents that all governments should make public during the course of the budget year. The Philippines' performance indicates that the government provides citizens with **some information** on the central government's budget and financial activities, but that there is much room for improvement.

Public Availability of Key Budget Documents	
Budget Document	Availability
Pre-Budget Statement	
Executive's Budget Proposal	
Citizens' Budget	
In-Year Reports	
Mid-Year Review	
Year-End Report	
Auditor's Report	
Available to the Public	Produced but for internal Use Only
	
Not Produced	
	

The **executive's budget proposal** is one of the most important documents released during the budget year. The Philippines' proposal provides some information to the public, scoring 57 percent out of a possible 100 percent of the information needed to present the public with a comprehensive picture of the government's financial activity. This suggests that there is room for improvement.

Governments should report to citizens regularly during the budget year on their spending, revenue collection and borrowing with **in-year reports**. The Philippines provides good information in its in-year reports, but it would greatly strengthen public accountability by publishing a more comprehensive **mid-year review**. This document provides the public with updates on what can be expected for the second half of the budget year. **Year-end reports** by the executive are released in a timely manner, but lack the details needed to facilitate comparisons between enacted levels and actual outcomes. While The Philippines does make its **audit report** public, it provides very little information on whether the audit report's recommendations are successfully implemented.

Citizens require both access to information, and opportunities during the consideration of the budget to use that information to ensure their informed participation in budget debates. The Philippines' score on the *Open Budget Index* suggests that the public's access to information could be improved. Researchers

also found that opportunities for citizen participation could be improved. For example, the legislature does hold public hearings on the budget – but there are only a few hearings in which the public can participate.

Research to complete the Open Budget Questionnaire was undertaken by:
Vinia M. Datinguino and Avigail M. Olarte
 Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

3F Criselda II Bldg., 107 Scout de Guia St.
Quezon City 1104, Philippines
 Tel: (+632) 4101383, 4104768
 E-mail: vinia@pcij.org (Vinia); research@pcij.org (Avigail)