Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Res. No. 1193

Introduced by Rep. BERNADETTE R. HERRERA

RESOLUTION
URGING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SAD STATE OF PHILIPPINE INTERNET SPEED AND CONNECTIVITY

WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Council issued a Resolution widely recognizing the important role of a “global and open nature” of internet access as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development. It also expressly “calls upon all States to consider formulating, through transparent and inclusive processes with all stakeholders, and adopting national Internet-related public policies that have the objective of universal access and enjoyment of human rights at their core”;

WHEREAS, as of January 2020, around 73 Million Filipinos access the internet – mostly for communication and to access information;

WHEREAS, however, as the COVID-19 pandemic struck, fast, efficient, and stable internet access is no longer needed for communication and access to information, but also play an important role in managing business operations, exploring novel sources of personal income, and the continuation of education;

WHEREAS, as of July 2020, the Philippines ranked 113th in the Speedtest Global Index for Mobile Internet with an average speed of 16.95 Mbps, and ranked 109th in the Fixed Broadband category with an average speed of 25.07, in both cases far slower than the Average Global Internet Speed of 34.51 Mbps for mobile and 81.46 Mbps for fixed broadband;

WHEREAS, despite the slow speeds, Philippine internet is significantly more expensive according to a December 2019 report by the Daily Guardian. In that report, a base cost of US$20 was applied and showed that US$20 is enough to afford a super-fast internet plan at 890Mbps (Russia) and 600 Mbps (China and Lithuania). While in the Philippines, a $20 plan would provide a 5 Mbps internet speed;

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3 https://www.speedtest.net/global-index/philippines
4 http://www.speedtest.net/global-index
5 https://dailymail.co.uk/20-a-month-in-phl-the-cost-of-internet-around-the-world/
WHEREAS, the Philippines is failing in Internet Inclusivity according to the 2020 Inclusive Internet Index conducted by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the Philippines ranked 63rd out of 100 countries surveyed. The country placed 57th in internet availability, 82nd in affordability, 59th in relevance and readiness. Throughout the Asia Pacific region, the country placed 19th out of 26 countries in the Asia Pacific Region.\(^6\)

WHEREAS. According to the World Bank Philippine Economic update June 2020 edition, to successfully embrace the new normal, the Philippine digital infrastructure needs to be urgently and substantially improved to ensure resilient and affordable internet service.\(^7\)

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the members of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, urging the appropriate house committee to investigate, in aid of legislation, the sad state of Philippine internet speed and connectivity.

Adopted,

BERNADETTE HERRERA

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\(^6\) [https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/03/03/1997646/philippines-ranks-63rd-inclusive-internet-index](https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/03/03/1997646/philippines-ranks-63rd-inclusive-internet-index)