

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session



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**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1177**

Submitted by the Committees on Information and Communications Technology, Ways and Means, and Appropriations on August 26, 2021.

Re : House Bill No. **10098**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1655, 4115, 7398 and 7403.

Sponsor : Representatives Victor A. Yap, Joey Sarte Salceda, Eric Go Yap, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, and Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez

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Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Information and Communications Technology and the Committees on Ways and Means and Appropriations, to which were referred House Bill No. 1655 introduced by Rep. Manuel DG. Cabochan III, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING AN ICT HUB IN EVERY PROVINCE AND FOR OTHE PURPOSES"**

House Bill No. 4115 introduced by Rep. Henry R. Villarica, entitled:

**"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ONLINE NETWORK FOR THE PHILIPPINES"**

House Bill No. 7398 introduced by Rep. Virgilio S. Lacson, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE BARANGAY INTERNET HUBS THAT WILL PROVIDE FREE  
INTERNET FOR LEARNERS AND PROFESSIONALS"**

and House Bill No. 7403 introduced by Rep. Alfred Vargas, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY  
(ICT) HUB IN EVERY PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES"**

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 10098,  
entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY HUBS  
NATIONWIDE"**

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1655, 4115, 7398 and 7403, with Representatives Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Henry R. Villarica, Virgilio S. Lacson, Alfred Vargas, Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Victor A. Yap, Joey Sarte Salceda, Eric Go Yap, Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Carlito S. Marquez, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Micaela S. Violago, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagano, Ramon C. Nolasco Jr., Weslie Gatchalian, France L. Castro, Faustino Michael Carlos Dy III, Strike B. Revilla Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, Ronnie L. Ong, Julianne "Jam" L. Barronda, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Alan R. Dujali, Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V, Sharon S. Garin, Pablo John F. Garcia, Christopher V.P. De Venecia, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Bernadette "BH" C. Herrera-Dy, Sergio C. Dagooc, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Angelo Marcos Barba, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Angelina D.L. Tan, Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Adriano A. Ebcas, Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Lianda B. Bolilia, Rico B. Geron, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo, Conrado M. Estrella III, Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte, Jose L. Atienza, Jr., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Michael B. Gorriceta. Janice Z. Salimbangon, Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr., Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Raul "Boboy" C. Tupas, Mark O. Go, John Marvin "Yul Siervo" C. Nieto, Lorenz R. Defensor, Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay, Sonny "SL" L. Lagon, Camille A. Villar, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Jose "Jun" L. Ong, Jr., Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., Tyrone D. Agabas, Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, Sabiniano S. Canama, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Alfelito M. Bascug, Arlene D. Brosas, Edgar M. Chatto, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Ed Christopher S. Go, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Divina Grace C. Yu. Loren Legarda, Evelina G. Escudero, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Lawrence Lemuel H. Fortun, Jake Vincent Villa, Ria Christina G. Farinas Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Lorna P. Bautista- Bandigan, Junie E. Cua, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Paul Ruiz Daza, Michael John R. Duavit, Rudys Caesar G. Farinas I, Greg G. Gasataya, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Corazon T. Nunez- Malanyaon, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Way Kurat Zamora, Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Yasser Alonto Balindong, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Michael B. Gorriceta, Eduardo "Eddie" R. Gullas, Godofredo N. Guya, Ann K. Hofer, Glona G. Labadlabad, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Emmarie "Lolypop" Ouano-Dizon, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Hector S. Sanchez, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso, Shirlyn L. Banas-Nograles, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, Dahlia A. Loyola, Macnell M. Lusotan, Josephine Ramirez-Sato, Amihilda J. Sangcopan and Rowena Nina O. Taduran, as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

  
**VICTOR A. YAP**  
Chairperson

Committee on Information and Communications Technology



**ERIC GO YAP**

Chairperson

Committee on Appropriations



**JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

Chairperson

Committee on Ways and Means

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines  
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**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session

**House Bill No. 10098**

(In Substitution of House Bills Numbered 1655, 4115, 7398 and 7403)

Introduced by Representatives Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Henry R. Villarica, Virgilio S. Lacson, Alfred Vargas, Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Victor A. Yap, Joey Sarte Salceda, Eric Go Yap, Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Carlito S. Marquez, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Micaela S. Violago, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagano, Ramon C. Nolasco Jr., Weslie Gatchalian, France L. Castro, Faustino Michael Carlos Dy III, Strike B. Revilla Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, Ronnie L. Ong, Julianne "Jam" L. Barronda, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Alan R. Dujali, Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V, Sharon S. Garin, Pablo John F. Garcia, Christopher V.P. De Venecia, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Bernadette "BH" C. Herrera-Dy, Sergio C. Dagooc, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Angelo Marcos Barba, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Angelina D.L. Tan, Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Adriano A. Ebcas, Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Lianda B. Bolilia, Rico B. Geron, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo, Conrado M. Estrella III, Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte, Jose L. Atienza, Jr., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Michael B. Gorriceta, Janice Z. Salimbangon, Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr., Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Raul "Boboy" C. Tupas, Mark O. Go, John Marvin "Yul Siervo" C. Nieto, Lorenz R. Defensor, Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay, Sonny "SL" L. Lagon, Camille A. Villar, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Jose "Jun" L. Ong, Jr., Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., Tyrone D. Agabas, Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, Sabiniano S. Canama, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Alfelito M. Bascug, Arlene D. Brosas, Edgar M. Chatto, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Ed Christopher S. Go, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Divina Grace C. Yu. Loren Legarda, Evelina G. Escudero, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Lawrence Lemuel H. Fortun, Jake Vincent Villa, Ria Christina G. Farinas Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Lorna P. Bautista- Bandigan, Junie E. Cua, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Paul Ruiz Daza, Michael John R. Duavit, Rudys Caesar G. Farinas I, Greg G. Gasataya, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Corazon T. Nunez- Malanyaon, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Way Kurat Zamora, Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Yasser Alonto Balindong, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Michael B. Gorriceta, Eduardo "Eddie" R. Gullas, Godofredo N. Guya, Ann K. Hofer, Glona G. Labadlabad, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Emmarie "Lolypop" Ouano-Dizon, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Hector S. Sanchez, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso, Shirlyn L. Banas-Nograles, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, Dahlia A. Loyola, Macnell M. Lusotan, Josephine Ramirez-Sato, Amihilda J. Sangcopan and Rowena Nina O. Taduran.

**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**  
**HUBS NATIONWIDE**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in session assembled:*

1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Online Network  
2 Philippines Act”.

3       **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy*** – The State recognizes the vital role of  
4 information and communication in the development and in promoting growth in the  
5 countryside. To this end, the State shall encourage the expansion of information and  
6 communications technology (ICT) and infrastructure throughout the country to  
7 facilitate the access of the citizenry to goods and services. Pursuant thereto, the State  
8 shall establish ICT hubs throughout the country in accordance with the National ICT  
9 Roadmap and National ICT Plan.

10       **SEC. 3 *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

- 11       a)     *Bandwidth* refers to the amount of data that can be transmitted over a  
12             network connection over a period of time;
- 13       b)     *Broadband* refers to a high capacity transmission technique using a wide  
14             range of frequencies which enables a large number of messages to be  
15             communicated simultaneously. In the context of internet access, it refers  
16             to access that is continuing and unhindered, and faster than the  
17             traditional dial-up mode;
- 18       c)     *Broadband network* refers to a network able to transmit signals with a high  
19             bit rate and a transmission channel being equal to or greater than two  
20             megabits per second (2 mbps);
- 21       d)     *Committed information rate* refers to the information rate guaranteed by a  
22             public telecommunications entity (PTE). The bandwidth cannot fall  
23             below the committed rate of ninety-eight point five percent (98.5%) of  
24             the time;
- 25       e)     *Cyber skills learning hub or Digital transformation center* refers to a facility  
26             specifically designed for cyber-education and digital literacy, and that  
27             provides knowledge, skills, theoretical and practical experiences, and  
28             access to technologies for all learners to become information and  
29             technology proficient;

- 1 f) *Data farm* refers to a physical facility that houses servers, network  
2 equipment, personnel like information technology specialists and  
3 network technicians for business-critical support such as online data  
4 storage, data processing, core computing services, data and application  
5 backup services, and distributing large amounts of data from remote  
6 data facilities. The operation and management thereof shall be subject to  
7 pertinent laws and policies on data security to prevent, detect and  
8 intercept unauthorized access of data, specially on matters of national  
9 security;
- 10 g) *Digital innovation hub* refers to a specialized business incubation and  
11 acceleration facility offering physical workspace, mentoring and  
12 coaching, and devices for technical application testing or experimenting,  
13 and training. It is a one-stop-shop, usually but not always affiliated with  
14 educational institutions, that helps companies including start-ups to  
15 become more competitive with regard to their business production  
16 processes, products or services using digital technologies by providing  
17 access to the latest knowledge, expertise and technology to support  
18 them;
- 19 h) *Information and communications technology (ICT)* refers to the totality of  
20 electronic means to access, create, collect, store, process, receive,  
21 transmit, present, and disseminate information;
- 22 i) *Information and communications technology hub (ICT hub)* refers to a  
23 location where ICT services may be provided by a PTE with at least the  
24 minimum internet speed required by the National Telecommunications  
25 Commission (NTC). Such services may include telecommunications  
26 services, broadband and convergence services, business processing and  
27 data management;
- 28 j) *Information technology and business processing management hub* refers to a  
29 location that caters to and offers support mechanisms for companies and  
30 enterprises engaged in IT services and business process management  
31 and operations;
- 32 k) *Public telecommunications entity (PTE)* refers to any person, natural or  
33 juridical, government or private engaged in the provision of  
34 telecommunications services to the public for compensation.

1           **SEC. 4 *Establishment of Information and Communications Technology Hubs.***

2           – There shall be established ICT hubs all over the country in accordance with a  
3 National ICT Plan to be prepared by the Department Information and  
4 Communications Technology (DICT).

5           The ICT Plan shall assess the needs of every province in the country and  
6 identify the appropriate types and the number of ICT hubs to be developed therein.  
7 Every province shall have at least one (1) of the following classifications of ICT hubs  
8 based on the type of activity that it hosts:

- 9           a)       Data Farms;
- 10           b)       Information Technology (IT) and Business Processing Management  
11                (BPM) Hub;
- 12           c)       Cyber Skills Learning Hub and Digital Transformation Center (DTC);
- 13           d)       Digital Innovation Hub; and
- 14           e)       any other ICT hub that may arise in the future.

15           Pursuant to the ICT Plan and the national, provincial, city, or municipal spatial  
16 development plans, the DICT and the local government units (LGU) shall identify  
17 the areas where the ICT hubs shall be established based on geographical area and  
18 population: *Provided*, That ICT hubs shall be developed in geographically equitable  
19 and accessible locations throughout the province: *Provided, further*, That the area or  
20 site of an ICT hub shall be on a property owned by an LGU.

21           The private sector shall be encouraged to establish ICT hubs in accordance with  
22 the standards set forth by the DICT. The DICT shall employ the latest and emerging  
23 technologies available to serve commercially unviable areas.

24           **SEC. 5. *Role of the Department of Information and Communications***  
25 ***Technology (DICT).*** – The DICT shall formulate a National ICT Plan, based on the  
26 National ICT Roadmap, which shall include the development of a national  
27 broadband network, provision of incentives to encourage private sector participation  
28 and promotion of competition. The Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating  
29 Center of the DICT shall formulate, oversee and validate the ICT cyber plan of the  
30 ICT hubs.

31           The DICT shall update the National ICT Plan and shall submit the same on or  
32 before the 15<sup>th</sup> of April of every year to the Office of President of the Republic of the  
33 Philippines, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the  
34 ICT Joint Congressional Oversight Committee established under this Act.

1           **SEC. 6. *Advisory Committee.*** – There is hereby created an Advisory  
2 Committee that shall solicit inputs towards the shaping of policy directions of the  
3 National ICT Plan, including the supervision of ICT hubs and the coordination to be  
4 undertaken with the private sector and other agencies and instrumentalities of the  
5 government. The DICT shall determine the composition of the Advisory Committee  
6 and ensure the equal representation of the (a) government, (b) the service providers,  
7 (c) the end users, and (d) other industry stakeholders.

8           **SEC. 7. *Role of the National Telecommunication Commission (NTC).*** – The  
9 NTC, through the exercise of its quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial powers, shall be  
10 the primary infrastructure regulator to ensure the monitoring and implementation of  
11 this Act. The NTC shall approve proposed ICT hub telecommunications projects  
12 through an administrative process prescribed for the purpose and shall ensure the  
13 compliance of PTEs with the required and committed information rate and quality of  
14 service. All PTEs shall regularly submit the necessary data and reports as required  
15 by the NTC.

16           **SEC. 8. *Incentives.*** – Any registered business enterprise in the ICT hub may be  
17 granted incentives provided under Title XIII of the National Internal Revenue Code  
18 of 1997, as amended: *Provided That*, these incentives shall be granted in addition to  
19 the incentives given by the LGU where such ICT hubs are located.

20           The eligibility of the ICT hubs for the incentives provided herein should be  
21 within the boundaries of a performance-based, time-bound, and transparent system  
22 of incentives tailor-fit for highly desirable ICT investments and shall be subject to  
23 compliance monitoring by the Fiscal Incentives and Review Board and the LGU  
24 where such ICT hubs are located.

25           **SEC. 9. *Digital Skills Development.*** – The DICT, together with the Department  
26 of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical Education and  
27 Skills Development Authority, shall establish a program on digital skills  
28 development for all learners to enhance their competitiveness, adaptability and  
29 employability in the emerging digital economy, which shall be integrated into the  
30 pertinent programs of the ICT hubs.

31           **SEC. 10. *Digital Network Infrastructure.*** - A digital network infrastructure  
32 shall be established to connect the local ICT hubs to the National Broadband  
33 Program through a core backbone network of the DICT, to be funded from the  
34 spectrum users' fees.

1 The DICT is hereby authorized to classify the said funds for capital outlay,  
2 which classification shall be furnished to and duly reflected by the Department of  
3 Budget and Management in its records. The release of funds shall be subject to  
4 applicable laws and existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and  
5 regulations.

6 **SEC. 11. *Local Government Responsibility.*** - The issuance of licenses and  
7 permits for ICT-related activities and infrastructure construction projects shall not be  
8 delayed and hampered, and shall further be prioritized, subject to the provisions of  
9 Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and  
10 Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.

11 The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall include ICT  
12 competitiveness and ICT integration as a criterion of governance under the Seal of  
13 Good Local Governance program.

14 **SEC. 12. *Private Sector Support and Public-Private Partnership.*** - The LGUs  
15 may engage the private sector through PPP agreements targeted towards financing,  
16 designing, implementing and operating infrastructure facilities and services for the  
17 ICT hub to maximize costs and allow for sharing of revenue, subject to the  
18 provisions of Republic Act No. 6957, otherwise known as "An Act Authorizing the  
19 Financing, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Infrastructure Projects by  
20 the Private Sector and for Other Purposes", as amended.

21 **SEC. 13. *Prohibition Against Exclusivity.*** - All ICT hubs established under this  
22 Act are hereby declared free zones within which any PTE may operate. Any  
23 agreement or arrangement designating a PTE, or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates  
24 as an exclusive PTE within an ICT hub shall be void and unenforceable. The  
25 domestic internet exchanges shall be interconnected. The interconnection agreement  
26 between the PTEs shall be submitted to the NTC for its approval. If the parties fail to  
27 reach an agreement within ninety (90) days from the start of negotiation, the NTC  
28 shall intervene and prescribe the terms and conditions of the interconnection.

29 **SEC. 14. *Penalties.*** - In the exercise of its quasi-judicial power, the NTC shall  
30 impose a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00) for (a) non-  
31 disclosure, (b) non-interconnection, or (c) non-compliance with the committed  
32 information rate and quality of service.



1           The NTC shall increase the amount of fine every five (5) years subject to a  
2 certification from the NEDA on the computation of the cost of money based on the  
3 current consumer price index.

4           **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from  
5 the effectivity of this Act, the DICT as the lead agency, together with NEDA, DILG,  
6 the League of Provinces and the Leagues of LGUs, the Board of Investments, the  
7 Philippine Economic Zone Authority, and the Advisory Committee, shall issue the  
8 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

9           **SEC. 16. *ICT Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** – An ICT Joint  
10 Congressional Oversight Committee (ICTJCOC) is hereby created to monitor the  
11 effective implementation of this Act, recommend the necessary remedial legislative  
12 or administrative measures and perform such other duties and functions as may be  
13 necessary to attain the objectives of this Act. It shall be composed of the  
14 Chairpersons of the House Committee on Information and Communications  
15 Technology and Senate Committee on Science and Technology and two (2) members  
16 from each of the Senate and the House of Representatives who shall be designated  
17 by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
18 respectively: *Provided*, That one (1) member from each House shall be nominated by  
19 their respective Minority Leaders.

20           The Chairpersons of the House Committee on Information and  
21 Communications Technology and the Senate Committee on Science and Technology  
22 shall serve as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson or *vice versa* of the ICTJCOC on a  
23 rotational basis every six (6) months. The Secretariat of the ICTJCOC shall be the  
24 existing secretariat personnel of the concerned Committees of the House of  
25 Representatives and the Senate.

26           **SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall be declared  
27 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full  
28 force and effect.

29           **SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
30 rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to the  
31 provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

32           **SEC. 19. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
33 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

34           Approved.

# FACT SHEET

## House Bill No. 10098

(in Substitution of House Bills Numbered 1655, 4115, 7398 and 7403)

### **An Act Establishing Information and Communications Technology Hubs Nationwide**

*Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III, HENRY R. VILLARICA, VIRGILIO S. LACSON, ALFRED VARGAS, ROSE MARIE "BABY" J. ARENAS, VICTOR A. YAP, JOEY SARTE SALCEDA, ERIC GO YAP, FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ, CARLITO S. MARQUEZ, JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING, MICAELA S. VIOLAGO, ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON, JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO, MARICEL G. NATIVIDAD-NAGANO, RAMON C. NOLASCO JR., WESLIE GATCHALIAN, FRANCE L. CASTRO, FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS DY III, STRIKE B. REVILLA ALYSSA SHEENA P. TAN, JOSE ENRIQUE "JOET" S. GARCIA III, RONNIE L. ONG, JULIENNE "JAM" L. BARRONDA, GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR., ALAN R. DUJALI, FAUSTINO "INNO" A. DY V, SHARON S. GARIN, PABLO JOHN F. GARCIA, CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA, JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA, JERICHO JONAS B. NOGRALES, KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN, JOSE GAY G. PADIERNOS, BERNADETTE "BH" C. HERRERA-DY, SERGIO C. DAGOOC, ALLAN BENEDICT S. REYES, ANGELO MARCOS BARBA, TEODORICO T. HARESCO, JR., CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA, ANGELINA D.L. TAN, FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES, ADRIANO A. EBCAS, ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING, HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR., LIANDA B. BOLILIA, RICO B. GERON, JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO, ANTHONY PETER "ONYX" D. CRISOLOGO, CONRADO M. ESTRELLA III, MARLYN "LEN" B. ALONTE, JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR., RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ, MICHAEL B. GORRICETA. JANICE Z. SALIMBANGON, JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR., STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO, RAUL "BOBOY" C. TUPAS, MARK O. GO, JOHN MARVIN "YUL SIERVO" C. NIETO, LORENZ R. DEFENSOR, JESUS "BONG" C. SUNTAY, SONNY "SL" L. LAGON, CAMILLE A. VILLAR, DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO, JOSE "JUN" L. ONG, JR., ALFREDO A. GARBIN, JR., TYRONE D. AGABAS, ROSANNA "RIA" V. VERGARA, SABINIANO S. CANAMA, SARAH JANE I. ELAGO, ALFELITO M. BASCUG, ARLENE D. BROSAS, EDGAR M. CHATTO, JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE, ED CHRISTOPHER S. GO, CRISTAL L. BAGATSING, JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL ARROYO, DIVINA GRACE C. YU. LOREN LEGARDA, EVELINA G. ESCUDERO, JOHNNY TY PIMENTEL, LAWRENCE LEMUEL H. FORTUN, JAKE VINCENT VILLA, RIA CHRISTINA G. FARINAS MANUEL JOSE "MANNIX" M. DALIPE, ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT, LORNA P. BAUTISTA- BANDIGAN, JUNIE E. CUA, LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA, PAUL RUIZ DAZA, MICHAEL JOHN R. DUAVIT, RUDYS CAESAR G. FARINAS I, GREG G. GASATAYA, JOCELYN SY LIMKAICHONG, CORAZON T. NUNEZ- MALANYAON, MANUEL T. SAGARBARRIA, WAY KURAT ZAMORA, CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR, YASSER ALONTO BALINDONG, NARCISO R. BRAVO, JR., CARL NICOLAS C. CARI, MAXIMO Y. DALOG, JR., CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA, ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO, MICHAEL B. GORRICETA, EDUARDO "EDDIE" R. GULLAS, GODOFREDO N. GUYA, ANN K. HOFER, GLONA G. LABADLABAD,*

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## **OBJECTIVES:**

- To establish information and communications technology (ICT) hubs in all provinces in order to provide efficient inter-connectivity especially in the unserved and underserved areas in the country.
- To provide for a policy framework that will encourage the putting up of ICT hubs in every province in accordance with the National ICT Roadmap.

## **KEY PROVISIONS:**

- Mandates the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), to identify the types and number of ICT hubs per province pursuant to the National ICT Plan and the national, provincial, city, or municipal spatial development plans, and geographical area and population considerations.
- Mandates the DICT to formulate a National ICT Plan, based on the National ICT Roadmap, which shall, include among others, the development of a national broadband network, and provides incentives to encourage private sector participation and competition.
- Encourages the private sector to establish ICT hubs in accordance with the standards set by the DICT.
- Provides incentives to a locator enterprise in the ICT hub as provided for under existing laws, in addition to the incentives given by the local government unit where such ICT hub is located.
- Establishes a digital skills development program for all learners to enhance competitiveness, adaptability and employability in the emerging digital economy.

- Imposes a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) for the following prohibited acts: (a) non-disclosure, (b) non-interconnection, or (c) non-compliance with the committed information rate and quality of service.
- Creates an advisory committee tasked to solicit inputs towards the shaping of policy directions of the National ICT Plan, including the supervision of ICT hubs and the coordination to be undertaken with the private sector and other agencies and instrumentalities of the government.

#### **RELATED LAWS:**

- Executive Order No. 226 or the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987
- Republic Act No. 8424 or the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended by Republic Act No. 10963 or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law
- R.A. No. 6957 entitled “An Act Authorizing the Financing, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Infrastructure Projects by the Private Sector and for Other Purposes”, as amended
- Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018
- Republic Act No. 7916 or the Philippine Economic Zone Authority Law as amended by Republic Act No. 8748