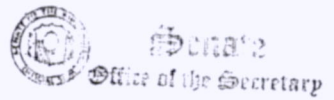



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 692

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO REVIEW THE EXISTING RADIO
FREQUENCY ALLOCATION POLICY AND TO DETERMINE THE
REMAINING UNCOMMITTED RADIO FREQUENCIES, WITH THE END IN
VIEW OF ITS POSSIBLE REDISTRIBUTION ALLOWING A POTENTIAL
THIRD PLAYER IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY**

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) pursuant to Act No. 3846, as amended, is mandated to ensure that the regulation, supervision and control of all communications, telecommunications and broadcast, including cable television facilities and services meet the requirements and standards set by the International Telecommunications Union;¹

WHEREAS, the NTC assigns specific frequencies within the allocated blocks to different licensees who will use the assigned frequencies to provide designated services, in exchange for paying the spectrum user fee;

WHEREAS, the radio frequency spectrum is a scarce public resource allocated by the government to service providers who will use it efficiently and effectively to meet public demand for telecommunications service and who may avail of new and cost effective technologies in the use of methods for its utilization;²

WHEREAS, the 700 MHz band is specially configured for deploying mobile broadband technologies which allows networks to penetrate buildings and walls and to cover larger geographic areas with less infrastructure compared to the 1900-Mhz or 2100-Mhz setup currently being used;³

WHEREAS, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) and Globe Telecom, Inc. (Globe) dominate the Philippine telecommunications industry;

WHEREAS, in May 2016, with the approval of the NTC, San Miguel Corp. (SMC) signed a deal to sell its telecommunication assets to PLDT and Globe Telecom for

¹ National Telecommunications Commission Operations Manual January 28, 2016
² Republic Act No. 7928 (*Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines*) Republic Act No. 7928 (*Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines*)
³ <https://www.fcc.gov/700-mhz-public-safety-narrowband-spectrum> (accessed February 27, 2018)

P70 billion, which made the acquisition of the 70 MHz out of SMC's 90 MHz stake via a 50-50 arrangement;⁴

WHEREAS, the President instructed the Department of Information and Communications Technology to expedite the entry of a new major third player in the telecommunications industry⁵ to ensure that telecommunication services are improved;

WHEREAS, of the nearly 800 mobile operators in the world, the average number of players in countries under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development range from three (3) to four (4) players;⁶

WHEREAS, the inquiry should look into the available radio frequencies since the amount of spectrum assigned to a telecommunications provider will impact on the cost of the build capacity, overall network performance, ability to offer new multimedia services, and general customer experience of wireless services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to review the existing radio frequency allocation policy and to determine the remaining uncommitted radio frequencies, with the end in view of its possible redistribution allowing a potential third player in the telecommunications industry.

Adopted,



KALPH G. RECTO

/mjma

⁴ <http://business.inquirer.net/239131/went-smc-deal-pldt-globe-telecom#ixzz58I4dyxWB> (accessed February 27, 2018)

⁵ <https://www.rappler.com/business/194362-dict-3rd-telecommunications-player-philippines> (accessed February 27, 2018)

⁶ <https://www.gsma.com/membership/who-are-our-gsma-members/full-membership/> (accessed February 27, 2018)