

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



22 NOV 23 P 6:20

**SENATE**

S. No. 1542

RECEIVED BY:

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TRANSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO E-**  
**GOVERNANCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIV, Section 12 of the 1987 Constitution states that "The State shall regulate the transfer and promote the adaptation of technology from all sources for the national benefit. It shall encourage the widest participation of private groups, local governments, and community-based organizations in the generation and utilization of science and technology." The same provides in Article II, Section 24 that the State "recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation building."

The COVID-19 pandemic has expedited the shift to online platforms. The new normal demands that the government consider and adopt digital transformation including the utilization of electronic services and platforms to strengthen its public service delivery. Through the use of information and communications technology, government services are brought closer to the people in a more seamless manner. This measure hopes to improve efficiency in the delivery of government services by eliminating usual causes of delays leading to unnecessary long lines, wastage in resources - money, time and energy - for people availing the services.

This bill takes into consideration what we have learned from what has been and is being done, drawing from the experiences of technologically-advanced countries and the best practices of those who have started the push for e-governance, to initiate the country's first big step to an institutional and whole-of-government

approach to digitizing governance for a better government and a safer future. Moreover, this bill encourages government cooperation with the private sector in providing resources, assets, and services.

This bill seeks to establish an integrated, interconnected and interoperable information, resource sharing and communication network, which shall include internal records, management information system and digital portals covering the entire bureaucracy - at the local and national level. It also aims to institutionalize the utilization of internet, intranet and governance through electronic means as part of public service.

This measure shall complement Republic Act No. 11032, or the "*Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018*".

In hope of making the government truly accessible across all available platforms, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**RAMON BONGS REVILLA, JR.**

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INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TRANSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO E-  
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines  
in Congress assembled:*

**CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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2  
3  
4 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*E-Governance Act of*  
5 *2022.*"

6 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
7 recognize the vital role of information and communication technology in nation  
8 building and the necessity of harnessing its potential in pursuit of national  
9 development and progress. The State hereby adopts a policy to create, foster, and  
10 sustain an integrated government that provides responsive and transparent online  
11 people-centered services for a digitally empowered nation. In pursuit of this policy,  
12 this Act shall have the following purposes:

- 13 a. Provide effective leadership of government efforts to develop and promote  
14 electronic government services and processes by providing guidance to the  
15 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in  
16 accordance with its mandate;
- 17 b. Promote the use of internet, intranet, and other information and  
18 communications technologies to provide increased opportunities for citizen  
19 participation in government;

- 1 c. Promote inter-agency collaboration in providing electronic government  
2 services, by integrating related functions and use of internal electronic  
3 government processes, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the  
4 processes;
- 5 d. Improve the ability of the government to achieve agency missions and program  
6 performance goals;
- 7 e. Promote the use of internet, intranet, and emerging technologies within and  
8 across government agencies to provide citizen-centric government information  
9 and services;
- 10 f. Reduce costs and burdens for businesses and other government entities;
- 11 g. Promote evidence-based decision making by policy makers through use of data  
12 analytics;
- 13 h. Promote access to high quality government information and services across  
14 multiple channels;
- 15 i. Make the national and local governments more transparent and accountable by  
16 transforming their operations through utilization of, where appropriate, best  
17 practices from public and private sector organizations, both local and  
18 international; and
- 19 j. Provide enhanced access to government information and services consistent  
20 with data privacy, national security and other relevant laws.

21 Sec. 3. *Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to all government offices and agencies  
22 including local government units (LGUs) and government-owned or -controlled  
23 corporations and instrumentalities (GOCCs).

24 Sec. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms are defined  
25 as follows:

- 26 a. *E-Governance* refers to use of information and communications technology by  
27 the government and the public to enhance the access to and delivery of  
28 government services to bring about efficient, responsive, ethical, accountable  
29 and transparent government service;
- 30 b. *Workflow* refers to the sequence of industrial, administrative, or other  
31 processes through which a piece of work passes from initiation to completion;

- 1 c. *Intranet* refers to a secure and private enterprise network that shares data or  
2 application resources via Internet Protocol;
- 3 d. *Internet* refers to a secure and public enterprise network that shares data or  
4 application resources via Internet Protocol;
- 5 e. *ICT assets* refer to any data, device, equipment, infrastructure, system, or  
6 component thereof, or property, owned or possessed by the DICT in  
7 accordance with its mandate, utilized to ensure or support the proper and  
8 efficient operation and implementation of ICT-related programs and delivery of  
9 ICT services;
- 10 f. *ICT Plan* refers to the sum or set of goals, measures, strategies, agenda, and  
11 programs for the implementation of ICT programs and projects and the use of  
12 information and communications technology, including digital platforms, to  
13 deliver public services or otherwise perform governmental functions.

## 14 CHAPTER 2

### 15 ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT

16 Sec. 5. *Responsibilities of the Heads of Government Agencies.* - The head of  
17 each agency, office, and instrumentality of the national and local governments shall  
18 be responsible for:

- 19 a. Complying with the requirements of this Act, including related standards for all  
20 ICT infrastructure, systems, equipment, designs, and all other technology,  
21 which shall be promulgated by the Department of Information and  
22 Communications Technology (DICT);
- 23 b. Complying with the standards and protocols for cybersecurity, resiliency,  
24 privacy, and confidentiality, which shall also be promulgated by the DICT;
- 25 c. Ensuring that the information technology standards promulgated by the DICT  
26 are communicated promptly and effectively to all relevant officials within their  
27 agency; and
- 28 d. Supporting the efforts of the national and local governments to develop,  
29 maintain, and promote an integrated Internet-based system of delivering  
30 Federal Government information and services to the public.

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2 To these ends:

3 a. Agencies shall develop performance measures that demonstrate how electronic  
4 government enables progress toward agency objectives, strategic goals, and  
5 statutory mandates;

6 b. In measuring performance, agencies shall rely on existing data collections to  
7 the extent practicable. Areas of performance measurement that agencies  
8 should include customer service; agency productivity; and adoption of  
9 Innovative information technology, including the appropriate use of commercial  
10 best practices;

11 c. Agencies shall link their performance goals, as appropriate, to key groups,  
12 including citizens, businesses, and other governments; d. As appropriate,  
13 agencies shall work collectively in linking their performance goals to key groups  
14 and shall use information technology in delivering government information and  
15 services to those groups.

16 *Sec. 6. Role of the Department of Information and Communications Technology*  
17 *(DICT).* - The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)  
18 shall, in addition to its mandates and functions under Republic Act 10844:

19 a. Harmonize and coordinate all national ICT plans and Initiatives to ensure  
20 knowledge, information and resource-sharing, database-building, and  
21 agency networking linkages among government agencies, consistent  
22 with E-Government objectives in particular, and national objectives in  
23 general;

24 b. Ensure the development and protection of integrated government ICT  
25 infrastructures and designs, taking into consideration the inventory of  
26 existing manpower, plans, programs, software, hardware, and installed  
27 systems;

28 c. Assist and provide technical expertise to government agencies in the  
29 development of guidelines in the enforcement and administration of  
30 laws, standards, rules, and regulations governing ICT;

- 1 d. Assess, initiate, review and support ICT research and development  
2 programs of the government; and
- 3 e. Prescribe, in accordance with applicable civil service laws and rules, the  
4 creation of ICT-related government positions and corresponding  
5 compensation rates aligned with the personnel needs of a digitized  
6 government, as well as the qualifications, standards, duties, and  
7 functions essential to the effective development and operation of  
8 government ICT infrastructures and systems.

9 *Sec. 7. DICT to act as the Primary Implementing Body.* - The DICT shall be the primary  
10 implementing body and principal administrator of this Act. All ICT projects in the  
11 Philippines shall be done in accordance with the National ICT Development Agenda.  
12 For this purpose, the DICT shall establish measures to implement policies under this  
13 Act and ensure that all ICT projects in the Philippines, whether national or local, are  
14 harmonized with the overall ICT plans and in compliance with applicable standards.  
15 Accordingly, the DICT shall be responsible for the following:

- 16 a. Adopting a national policy and process that would facilitate the entry and  
17 adoption of technologies consistent with the goals of this Act;
- 18 b. Ensuring the quality, security, reliability, and interoperability of all ICT  
19 infrastructure and services In accordance with International or industrial  
20 standards, specifications, and best practices;
- 21 c. Tapping into the private sector and entering into partnerships and joint  
22 ventures in accordance with the goals of this Act;
- 23 d. Mandate and supervise the adoption of policies and processes to ensure the  
24 Implementation of this Act:
- 25 e. Mandate and supervise the interconnection or interoperability of ICT  
26 infrastructure, systems, and facilities when necessary to achieve the goals of  
27 this Act; and
- 28 f. Regulate and supervise the operations of ICT infrastructure, systems, and  
29 facilities, and in the exercise of such functions, in accordance with applicable  
30 laws and rules, charge reasonable administrative and operational fees as may  
31 be necessary.

1           Sec. 8. *The DICT-Project Management Office (DICT-PMO)*. - Within one year  
2 from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT shall establish a government-wide Project  
3 Management Office, which shall cater to and address to the portfolio, program, and  
4 project management needs of government agencies, with the end goal of ensuring  
5 that ICT projects across the government are managed with efficiency and agility  
6 following international best practices and standards, to deliver successful projects,  
7 with the goal of delivering lasting benefits and value through new or enhanced ICT  
8 services.

9           The DICT shall provide guidelines on the operation of the PMO and as to the  
10 qualifications of personnel under the PMO, who shall, at the minimum obtain  
11 Internationally-recognized certifications and a required number of units on Project  
12 Management, Program Management, IT Service Management, The Open Group  
13 Enterprise Architecture, Risk Management, and other similar fields or specializations.

14           Sec. 9. *Inclusivity*. - In accordance with the provisions of this Act on the  
15 Philippine Citizen Connect Program, when promulgating policies and implementing  
16 programs regarding the provision of government information and services over the  
17 internet and other platforms or channels, agency heads shall consider the impact on  
18 persons without access to such platforms or channels, and shall, to the extent  
19 practicable, ensure that the availability of government information and services has  
20 not been or will not be diminished for individuals and entities who lack access to the  
21 Internet; and pursue alternate modes of delivery that make government Information  
22 and services more accessible to individuals who do not own computers or lack access  
23 to the internet or other platforms and channels.

### 24   **CHAPTER 3**

#### 25   **THE INTEGRATED GOVERNMENT NETWORK**

26           Sec. 10. *Establishment of the Integrated Government Network*. - The DICT shall  
27 establish an integrated, interconnected, and interoperable internal government  
28 network, to be known as the "*Integrated Government Network*" (IGN), which shall act  
29 as the primary means for the sharing and communication of resources, information,  
30 and data through and on digital and electronic platforms across all of the government.



1 The IGN shall also act as the government's primary and focal information management  
2 tool and communications network.

3       Sec. 11. *Scope and Coverage of the IGN.* - The IGN shall cover all branches,  
4 agencies, instrumentalities, and offices of the national and local government, including  
5 government-owned and controlled corporations and instrumentalities.

6       Sec. 12. *Interconnectivity and Interoperability of the IGN to Existing*  
7 *Government Networks.* - All internal networks already established and maintained by  
8 any government agency, office, or instrumentality, including local governments, shall  
9 upon the effectivity of this Act, enact measures to establish interconnection to and  
10 interoperability with the IGN.

11       Sec. 13. *Internal Records Management Information System.* - The government  
12 shall establish, maintain, and support a records management system for the  
13 systematic, efficient, and cost-effective management of all government and public  
14 documents and records. All paper-based documents and records shall be digitized,  
15 migrated to, and managed through this system. The government shall establish a  
16 framework to allow efficient interoperability among agencies, offices, and  
17 instrumentalities of the national and local government when using electronic  
18 signatures, including processing of digital signatures.

19       Sec. 14. *Internal Email and Communication Network.* - The government shall  
20 establish and maintain an internal email and communications network, to be known  
21 as "GovMail," for internal and intra-government communications, information  
22 dissemination and sharing, coordination, feedback, and other similar and related  
23 purposes. It shall be structured in a manner that ensures that the use and operation  
24 of such email networks shall be accessible, safe, interactive, interconnected, and  
25 interoperable. Migration, digitization, and automation of paper-based workflows.

26       Sec. 15. *Migration, Digitization, and Automation of Paper-based Workflows.* -  
27 All paper-based government and bureaucratic workflows involving internal  
28 communications, information dissemination and sharing, coordination, feedback, and  
29 other similar and related purposes shall be migrated, digitized, and, as far as  
30 practicable, automated.

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, communication, information  
2 dissemination and sharing, coordination, and feedback which deals with critical and  
3 sensitive information as may be determined by the head of the agency shall be allowed  
4 to be conducted through traditional and non-digital means as may be deemed  
5 appropriate for the purpose by the head of the agency.

## 6 CHAPTER 4

### 7 THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION DATABASE

8 Sec. 16. *The Philippine Information Database (PID)*. - The government shall  
9 establish, maintain, and support an individual information database which shall act as  
10 a national repository and directory of information and data on citizens of the  
11 Philippines, whether residing in the Philippines or not, and foreign nationals who enter  
12 the Philippines through legal channels.

13 Information and data to be stored on the database shall include names,  
14 addresses, whether permanent or temporary, national identification numbers, dates  
15 and places of birth, citizenship, civil status, biometric data and information, and other  
16 associated information: *Provided*, that the acquisition and storage of data and  
17 information on the database shall not in any way violate any applicable domestic and  
18 international laws and rules on privacy of data and information.

19 Sec. 17. *Integration with the Philippine Identification System*. - The current  
20 Philippine Identification System, including its existing and planned mechanisms for  
21 collecting, storing, and accessing data and information, shall be fully integrated with  
22 the database, in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

23 Sec. 17. *Access to and Use of the Database*. - The database shall be accessible,  
24 through digital platforms such as intranet and internet, to all agencies, offices, and  
25 instrumentalities of the government for purposes consistent with legitimate and valid  
26 public purposes, subject to the Republic Act 10173 or "*Data Privacy Act*." All  
27 government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities with access to the database shall  
28 maintain a record of all the Instances when, where, and how such agency, office, or  
29 instrumentality, or its duly authorized representatives, had accessed any information  
30 or data stored on the database and the purposes of such access, including the identity



1 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, access to and use of the resources,  
2 information, and data on the directory shall be In accordance with all relevant laws,  
3 rules, and regulations on data and information privacy and the pertinent rules on  
4 confidentiality of government information.

## 5 CHAPTER 6

### 6 THE GOVERNMENT E-PORTALS

7 *Sec. 23. Establishment of Online Public Service Portals (OPSP)* - In accordance  
8 with the policy of the government to maintain and promote an integrated internet-  
9 based system of providing the public with access to government information and  
10 services, the government, through the DICT, shall establish, maintain, and  
11 continuously update a portal which shall serve as a helpdesk where citizens can  
12 request for information and assistance on government frontline services, service  
13 procedures, and report commendations, appreciation, complaints, and feedback. The  
14 online portal shall also serve as a centralized contact point where all communications  
15 from the public through such portal may be routed, logged, responded to, and  
16 ultimately distributed to the different government agencies for proper handling and  
17 resolution, and follow through if necessary.

18 *Sec. 24. Access to and Use of the OPSP* - The portal shall be accessible, through  
19 digital platforms such as the intranet and internet, to citizens of the Philippines, foreign  
20 nationals who have entered the Philippines through legitimate channels, and  
21 businesses organized and existing or operating under the laws and rules of the  
22 Philippines for purposes consistent with the efficient delivery of public services.  
23 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, access to and use of the resources,  
24 information, and data through the portal shall be in accordance with all relevant laws,  
25 rules, and regulations on data and information privacy and the pertinent rules on  
26 confidentiality of government information.

27 *Sec. 25. Government Frontline Services through the OPSP* - All government  
28 agencies, offices, and instrumentalities which provide frontline services, as defined  
29 under Republic Act 9485 or "*Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007*", as amended, shall establish  
30 and maintain measures to ensure that such services are accessible and capable of  
31 delivery to the public through the portal. All offices and agencies which provide

1 frontline services are hereby mandated to regularly undertake time and motion  
2 studies, undergo evaluation and improvement of their transaction systems and  
3 procedures and re-engineer the same if deemed necessary to maximize the use of the  
4 portal for efficiency and transparency.

5       Sec. 26. *Access to Frontline Services.* - The following shall be adopted by all  
6 government offices and agencies covered in the immediately preceding paragraph:

7       a. Acceptance of Applications and Requests - All officers or employees shall accept  
8 written applications, requests, and/or documents being submitted by clients of  
9 the office or agencies through the portal.

10             The responsible officer or employee shall acknowledge receipt of such  
11 application and/or request by writing or printing clearly thereon, through the  
12 portal, his/her name, the unit where he/she is connected with, and the time  
13 and date of receipt.

14             The receiving officer or employee shall perform a preliminary  
15 assessment of the request so as to promote a more expeditious action on  
16 requests.

17       b. Action of the Concerned Offices - All applications and/or requests submitted  
18 through the portal shall be acted upon by the assigned officer or employee  
19 during the period stated in the Citizen's Charter which shall not be longer than  
20 five (5) working days in the case of simple transactions and ten (10) working  
21 days in the case of complex transactions from the date the request or  
22 application was received.

23             Depending on the nature of the frontline services requested or the  
24 mandate of the office or agency under unusual circumstances, the maximum  
25 time prescribed above may be extended. For the extension due to the nature  
26 of frontline services or the mandate of the office or agency concerned the  
27 period for the delivery of frontline services shall be indicated in the Citizen's  
28 Charter. The office or agency concerned shall notify the requesting party In  
29 writing of the reason for the extension and the final date of release for the

1 extension and the final date of release of the frontline service/s requested. No  
2 application or request shall be returned to the client without appropriate action.

3 In case an application or request is disapproved, the officer or employee  
4 who rendered the decision shall send a formal notice to the client within five  
5 working days from the receipt of the request and/or application, stating therein  
6 the reason for the disapproval including a list of specific requirement/s which  
7 the client failed to submit.

- 8 c. Denial of Request for Access to Government Service - Any denial of request  
9 for access to government service shall be fully explained in writing and through  
10 the portal, stating the name of the person making the denial and the grounds  
11 upon which such denial is based.

12 Any denial of request is deemed to have been made with the permission  
13 or clearance from the highest authority having jurisdiction over the government  
14 office or agency concerned.

- 15 d. Access to Progression of Frontline Service Requests through the OPSP - All  
16 offices, agencies, and instrumentalities shall make accessible through the portal  
17 the progress of all frontline service requests in real time.

- 18 e. Adoption of Working Schedules to serve clients through the OPSP - Heads of  
19 offices and agencies which render frontline services shall adopt appropriate  
20 working schedules to ensure that all clients requested for public services  
21 through the portal are attended to and served even during lunch break and  
22 after regular working hours, in accordance with pertinent civil service rules.

- 23 f. Identification of Public Employees - All employees transacting with the public  
24 shall be provided with an official identification card which should be publicly  
25 accessible through the online portal. Government agencies, offices, and  
26 instrumentalities mandated under this Act to provide and deliver public services  
27 through the portal shall not in any way require the person requesting for such  
28 public service to physically go and report to the physical office of such agency,  
29 office, or instrumentality where the purpose of such physical presence may be  
30 reasonably accomplished through the online portal.

1           Sec. 27. *The Government Online Payment System.* - In conjunction with the  
2 OPSP, the government shall establish an internet-based electronic payment system  
3 and facility to enable citizens and businesses to remit payments through digital  
4 platforms to the government agencies to which such payments are due. For this  
5 purpose, the government may engage the services of and interconnect with public  
6 and private payment systems and facilities, in accordance with applicable laws and  
7 rules.

8           Sec. 28. *The Citizens' Concerns Center.* - There is hereby established a Citizens'  
9 Concerns Center, which shall serve as a mechanism where citizens may report their  
10 complaints, grievances, and concerns on acts of red tape, as defined under Republic  
11 Act 9485 or "*Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007*", as amended, and other relevant laws, and/or  
12 corruption or misconduct on the part of any government agency, government-owned  
13 or controlled corporation, government financial institution, and other instrumentalities  
14 of the government or any of its officers, officials, or employees. The Center shall be  
15 under the direction and supervision of the Office of the Executive Secretary, in  
16 partnership with the Civil Service Commission and the Anti-Red Tape Authority, and  
17 in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government and their  
18 representatives from the LGUs.

19           Sec. 29. *Integration with Existing Public Feedback Mechanisms.* - All existing  
20 public feedback mechanisms for similar purposes established and/or maintained by  
21 agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, and local government units, shall be fully  
22 integrated with the Center. For this purpose and in accordance with the objectives of  
23 this Act, the Center may enter into such arrangements as are necessary for the  
24 interconnection, interoperability, and Integration of the public feedback mechanisms.

25           Sec. 30. *Integration with the Internal Government Network and Database.* -  
26 The Center, including its sub-operations units, and its operations shall be fully  
27 integrated with the internal government network and database for real time updating  
28 of data and information.

29           Sec. 31. *Minimum Operating Standards.* - The Center, including its sub-  
30 operation units, shall have the following minimum operating standards:

- 1 a. Communications Channels - The Center shall provide communications  
2 channels which include but are not limited to the following:
- 3 i. Telephone;
  - 4 ii. Short message service (SMS) or text message service;
  - 5 iii. Electronic mail (email);
  - 6 iv. Social media; or
  - 7 v. Other emerging communications media which can reasonably be  
8 used to fulfill the purposes of the Center;
- 9 b. Operating Hours - The Center shall operate, through any of its  
10 communications channels, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days  
11 a week, including national holidays and days in which work is suspended  
12 for whatever reason, for which purpose the Center may establish  
13 effective measures and hire the necessary personnel;
- 14 c. Process Flow - A citizen's concern received through any of the  
15 communications channels shall immediately be encoded onto the PID  
16 and referred, directly or indirectly, in real time, to the concerned agency,  
17 office, or instrumentality for appropriate action through the Internal  
18 government network. The complainant shall be given advice or feedback  
19 on the status of the concern until its resolution;
- 20 d. Period to Take Action - A citizen's concern filed and received through  
21 any of the communication channels shall have a concrete and specific  
22 action within seventy-two (72) hours from receipt by the proper  
23 government agency or instrumentality. For purposes of this provision,  
24 the period provided shall exclude such time outside the normal office  
25 hours of the agency or office concerned.

26 *Sec. 32. Cooperation of Government Agencies and LGUs.* - To ensure that the  
27 public is served efficiently and expeditiously in accordance with the objectives of this  
28 Act, all national government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, government-  
29 owned and controlled corporations, government financial institutions, as well as the  
30 local government units, are enjoined to cooperate and coordinate with the Office of  
31 the Executive Secretary and each other to ensure prompt action on the concerns  
32 received through the communications channels of the Center.



1 **CHAPTER 7**

2 **THE PHILIPPINE CITIZEN CONNECT PROGRAM**

3 Sec. 33. *The Philippine Citizen Connect Program.* - The government shall  
4 establish a program, to be known as the "*Philippine Citizen Connect*", to assist and  
5 help the public to who does not have access to, or need help with using computers,  
6 24 the internet, and other analogous means to transact with and request the delivery  
7 of 25 public services from the government in their localities.

8 Sec. 34. *Free Access to the Internet for the Public.* - Pursuant to Republic Act  
9 10929 or the "*Free Internet Access in Public Places Act*", the government, through the  
10 DICT, shall establish a program that will provide free access to Internet service in  
11 public places, with particular focus on unserved or underserved areas, throughout the  
12 country, to enable access to the online portals, promote knowledge-building among  
13 citizens, and enable them to participate and compete in the evolving information and  
14 communication age.

15 Sec. 35. *Provision and Maintenance of Internet-capable Devices in All Barangay*  
16 *Centers.* - All barangay centers in the country shall provide and maintain internet-  
17 capable devices such as but not limited to computers and tablets for the purpose of  
18 enabling efficient and timely access to government services.

19 Sec. 36. *Staffing Requirement for Internet Access.* - All barangay centers shall  
20 ensure that there will be government staff present to help the public access the  
21 government portal and perform online transactions with government agencies, offices,  
22 and instrumentalities.

23 **CHAPTER 8**

24 **THE GOVERNMENT WEBSITES AND E-BULLETIN BOARD**

25 Sec. 37. *The Government E-Bulletin Board (GEBB).* - The government and all  
26 its agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, including local governments, shall each  
27 establish and maintain a website and an e-bulletin board for the purposes of  
28 information sharing and dissemination, which shall be structured and maintained to  
29 ensure accessibility and security.

1           Sec. 38. *Information Dissemination through the Website and GEBB.* - All  
2 government offices, agencies, and instrumentalities which are mandated by the laws  
3 or rules to publish or otherwise disseminate notices, documents, or other information  
4 intended for public consumption and information shall, in addition to the traditional  
5 modes therefore, publish such notices, documents, or other information on the  
6 website and e-bulletin board.

7           Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act and other relevant laws, publication  
8 of notices, documents, or any other information on the website and e-bulletin board  
9 shall be construed as sufficient notice to the public for purposes of compliance with  
10 laws and rules requiring publication: provided, that such website or e-bulletin board is  
11 accessible at such point in time where accessibility is claimed. For purposes of this  
12 provision, the start of publication shall be the date on which the notice, document, or  
13 information was first uploaded and made accessible to the public.

14           Sec. 39. *Minimum Standards for Government Websites and Information Portals.*  
15 - The following shall be the minimum standards for government websites and  
16 information portals:

- 17           a. It shall include direct and easily identifiable links to description of the mission,  
18           statutory authority, and the organizational structure of the agency; and  
19           commonly asked questions and the corresponding answers, and other common  
20           matters of public concern; and  
21           b. It shall include direct and easily identifiable links to the relevant and applicable  
22           portals for the delivery of public services.

23   **CHAPTER 9**  
24   **SECURITY AND PRIVACY**

25           Sec. 40. *Data and Information Security.* - All resources, information, or data  
26 stored on or transmitted through the IGN and all networks interconnected to and  
27 interoperable with it, the PID, the PSD, OPSP, and websites shall be kept secure and  
28 free from interference or unauthorized access that can hamper or otherwise  
29 compromise the integrity of the information and communication technology assets.  
30 Access to and use of the resources, information, and data on the IGN shall be limited

1 to the government and its duly authorized officers and agents, in accordance with all  
2 relevant laws, rules, and regulations on data and information privacy and the pertinent  
3 rules on confidentiality of government information.

4 Any person who shall knowingly commit an act which results to the compromise  
5 of the security and integrity of the IGN and all networks interconnected to and  
6 interoperable with it to the detriment of the government and the public shall incur  
7 criminal liability in accordance with the provisions of applicable and/or relevant penal  
8 laws.

9 *Sec. 41. Responsibility of the National and Local Government* - All agencies,  
10 offices, and instrumentalities of the national and local government under this Act shall  
11 be responsible for:

- 12 a. Providing information security protections commensurate with the risk and  
13 magnitude of the harm resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure,  
14 disruption, modification, or destruction of Information collected or maintained  
15 by or on behalf of the agency, and information systems used or operated by an  
16 agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an  
17 agency;
- 18 b. Determining the levels of information security appropriate to protect such  
19 information and Information systems and implementing the same;
- 20 c. Periodically testing and evaluating information security controls and techniques  
21 to ensure that they are effectively implemented;
- 22 d. Complying with the requirements of pertinent laws on information security and  
23 privacy, related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines. Including  
24 information security standards promulgated by the Department of Information  
25 and Communications Technology: and information security standards and  
26 guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with law and as  
27 directed by the President; and
- 28 e. Ensuring that information security management processes are Integrated with  
29 agency strategic and operational planning processes.

30

1 **CHAPTER 10**

2 **PARTICIPATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

3 *Sec. 42. Government Cooperation with the Private Sector.* - Nothing in this Act  
4 shall prevent the government, both national and local, from entering into contracts,  
5 agreements, or partnerships with the private sector to provide various resources,  
6 assets, and services in order to comply or enhance compliance with the provisions of  
7 this Act.

8 Any and all contracts or agreements with the private sector in the context of  
9 this Act shall be subject to the laws and rules on public accountability and transparency  
10 and good governance.

11 *Sec. 43. Partnerships with Educational Institutions.* - The DICT-PMO may form  
12 partnerships with different educational institutions and private entities for learning and  
13 development. Partnerships may be in the form of resource sharing, module and  
14 training development, faculty exchange, standards development, training  
15 collaboration, and other similar forms. All partnerships to be entered into by the DICT-  
16 PMO shall be in accordance with the law, approved by the DICT Secretary, and shall  
17 not require the disbursement of any funds by the government.

18 **CHAPTER 11**

19 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

20 *Sec. 44. Transitory Provisions.* - In accordance with the objectives of this Act,  
21 the DICT, in coordination with relevant government agencies and instrumentalities, as  
22 well as private stakeholders and civic organizations, shall study, formulate, and  
23 implement a master plan for the transition of the government and its provision of  
24 services in the digital age. For purposes of this Act, until such time that the  
25 government shall have completed the transition in accordance with the objectives of  
26 this Act, all government activities covered under this Act shall be conducted in the  
27 manner provided for under existing laws and rules. The government shall complete  
28 the transition in a maximum of three (3) years from effectivity of this Act.

29 *Sec. 45. Regular Status Reports.* - All agencies, offices, and instrumentalities of  
30 the national and local governments covered under this Act shall submit an annual

1 report on the status of implementation of this Act to the President, through the DICT,  
2 and the Congress, through the Chairperson of the Committees of Science and  
3 Technology. These reports shall likewise be made publicly available on and through  
4 the e-portals.

5       Sec. 46. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to cover the initial  
6 implementation of this Act at the national government level shall be charged against  
7 the current year's appropriation of the national government agency, office, or  
8 instrumentality concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for its continued  
9 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The  
10 amount necessary to implement this Act at the local government level shall be charged  
11 against the funds of the local government unit concerned.

12       Sec. 47. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Information  
13 and Communications Technology, in coordination with relevant offices, agencies, and  
14 instrumentalities of the national and local government, shall promulgate the necessary  
15 rules and regulations to properly and efficiently Implement this Act within ninety (90)  
16 days from the effectivity of this Act.

17       Sec. 48. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or  
18 unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain  
19 in full force and effect.

20       Sec. 49. *Repealing Clause.* - All provisions of laws, presidential decrees, letters  
21 of instruction and other presidential Issuances which are contrary to, or inconsistent  
22 with, the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed amended or repealed.

23       Sec. 50. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days following  
24 its publication either in the Official *Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
25 circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*