



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9070

BY REPRESENTATIVES SALCEDA, YAP (V.), SINGSON-MEEHAN, GARIN (S.), TAMBUNTING, ARENAS, PINEDA, VIOLAGO, LACSON, CABREDO, DY (F.), BORDADO, TIANGCO, BENITEZ, NOLASCO, GONZALES (A.), NIETO, VILLARICA AND CABOCHAN, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 883

AN ACT

DEREGULATING SATELLITE-BASED TECHNOLOGIES, MANDATING RELEVANT AGENCIES TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SATELLITE-BASED TECHNOLOGIES DEDICATED TO EDUCATION AND OTHER CIVIC CAUSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Satellite-Based*
2 *Technologies Promotion Act*”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be declared the policy of the State to promote
4 broad and inclusive access to the internet and the availability of high-speed internet services,
5 as well as the accessibility of affordable satellite-based technologies, as crucial for
6 encouraging economic growth, opportunities for decent employment in the countryside, and
7 improvements in educational outcomes.

8 Towards these ends, the State shall deregulate access to satellite-based services and
9 encourage their use in the countryside and by educational institutions and cause-oriented
10 civic organizations.

11 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act;

12 a) *Internet service providers (ISPs)* refer to organizations that provide services for
13 accessing, using, or participating in the internet, whether as
14 commercial, community-owned, non-profit, or private-owned organizations;

15 b) *Satellite-based technologies* refer to communications technologies that employ
16 infrastructure and mechanisms with the ability to transmit and receive signals

1 from earth and to retransmit those signals back with the use of a transponder
2 which is an integrated receiver and transmitter of radio signals;

3 c) *Satellite Global Broadband Network (SGBN)* refers to a global satellite network
4 employing portable terminals such as the broadband global area network (BGAN)
5 which makes available services such as high speed internet, phone, facsimile,
6 short message texting, and streamlining services;

7 d) *Value-added service (VAS) providers* refer to providers of non-core
8 communications services, or, in general, all services beyond standard voice calls
9 and facsimile transmissions; and

10 e) *Very-small-aperture terminal (VSAT)* refers to a two-way satellite ground station
11 with a dish antenna, typically not more than four (4) meters in diameter, and
12 whose technical specifications the Department of Information and Communications
13 Technology (DICT) may further define.

14 SEC. 4. *Additional Mandate to the Department of Information and Communications*
15 *Technology (DICT)*. – To expand access to satellite-based technologies as an alternative
16 connectivity solution for making distance-based learning more inclusive, the DICT shall:

17 a) Pursue policies to secure necessary orbital slots for prospective Philippine
18 satellites, especially those dedicated to education and missionary internet
19 connectivity in the countryside;

20 b) Work with relevant agencies to encourage the commercial development of
21 technologies complementary to satellites-based technologies, especially those
22 dedicated to education;

23 c) In coordination with the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), issue rules and
24 regulations on the development, use, and maintenance of satellite-based
25 technology;

26 d) Perform such other functions as may be relevant to its work as the principal policy
27 and development agency for satellite based technology.

28 SEC. 5. *Policies on the Use of Satellite Technology*. – The government shall promote
29 the use of satellite services as a means of making education more inclusive and more
30 technologically-ready.

31 To promote the expansion of satellite-based networks, particularly in rural areas, and
32 in areas with limited fixed or cellular mobile network connectivity, value-added service
33 (VAS) providers and internet service providers (ISPs) shall be allowed to own and operate
34 networks utilizing satellite global broadband network (SGBN) such as very small aperture
35 terminals (VSATs), broadband global area network (BGAN) and other similar technologies

1 without need of a franchise and a provisional authority or Certificate of Public Convenience
2 and Necessity (CPCN) from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC). VAS
3 providers and ISPs shall, however, comply with existing policies requiring registration of
4 VAS and ISP offerings and submission of their schedule of rates.

5 The NTC shall comply with international regulations on the allocation and use of
6 frequency for satellite services, and shall not re-allocate them to the detriment of users of
7 VSAT, or other SGBN. It shall likewise ensure the availability of satellite frequencies for the
8 use of VAS providers and ISPs. The NTC shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for
9 the implementation of portions of this paragraph that require administrative and regulatory
10 oversight.

11 **SEC. 6. *Promotion of Satellite-based Technologies Among Education and Cause-***
12 ***oriented Civic Organizations.*** – Government organizations, public and non-profit private
13 educational institutions, volunteer organizations engaged in education, environmental
14 management, climate change management, disaster preparedness and crisis response shall be
15 allowed to own and operate satellite-based technology in order to aid and augment their
16 activities. The NTC shall, within thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act, establish an
17 expeditious administrative process to allow such entities to apply for permits to import and or
18 own such technology. The Anti-Red Tape Authority shall ensure that the procedures set forth
19 by the NTC pursuant to this section, complies with Republic Act No. 9485, or the Anti-Red
20 Tape Act of 2007.

21 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Unless otherwise stated, the DICT
22 shall, in coordination with the NTC, PhilSA and in consultation with relevant groups and
23 sectors, issue the rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days from the
24 date of its effectivity.

25 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is
26 declared invalid or unconstitutional, any part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in
27 full force and effect.

28 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – The provisions of Executive Order No. 467 (s. 1998)
29 that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. All other
30 laws, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
31 repealed or amended accordingly.

32 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
33 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

34 Approved,