



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9142

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARCIA (P.J.), YAP (V.), YAP (E.), SY-ALVARADO, DALIPE, ESCUDERO, SINGSON-MEEHAN, ARENAS, OAMINAL, SAVELLANO, RODRIGUEZ, REVILLA, TAMBUNTING, VIOLAGO, TIANGCO, BENITEZ, BIAZON, BORDADO, DUJALI, DY (F.), DY (F.M.C.), DY (I.P.), NATIVIDAD-NAGANO, TAN (A.S.), GARCIA (J.E.), DE VENECIA, QUIMBO, CALDERON, CAMPOS, CUA, CUARESMA, DAZA, DUAVIT, FRASCO, GASATAYA, GONZAGA, HARESCO, MOMO, SAGARBARRIA, TEJADA, ALBANO, BALINDONG, BASCUG, CABATBAT, CAMINERO, CARI, DAGOOC, DELOSO-MONTALLA, DIMAPORO (A.), DIMAPORO (M.K.), GORRICETA, GULLAS, GUYA, LABADLABAD, MACEDA, ONG (J.), ORTEGA, REYES, ROMAN, TAN (A.), TORRES-GOMEZ, TUTOR, VARGAS ALFONSO, VERGARA, DE JESUS, DEFENSOR (L.), ENVERGA, FLORES, GO (M.), LOYOLA, ROBES, SAULOG, CABOCHAN AND NIETO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 892

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TRANSCENDENT UNIFIED GOVERNMENT MOBILE APPLICATION FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES, SETTING A FRAMEWORK AND COMMON STANDARDS FOR GOVERNMENT MOBILE APPLICATIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Government Mobile
2 Applications Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State seeks to provide at all times efficient, speedy,
4 and inexpensive local and national government services to all and ensure the accessibility and

1 reliability of government information and resources. It is thus the policy of the State to exert
2 utmost effort in democratizing information, streamlining transactions, and ensuring that all
3 major and frontline government services are available to the Filipino people through various
4 media including the internet and with software applications which can be navigated by a general
5 application in coordination with all government agencies and instrumentalities.

6 The State recognizes the value of open data and content, usability and user experience,
7 ease of data exchange, and shall ensure user safety through appropriate technical measures, and
8 uphold data privacy rights in the pursuit of these ideals.

9 **SEC. 3. *Government Mobile Application Defined.*** – A government mobile application
10 hereinafter referred to as “GMA”, and defined as a software program created and implemented
11 by a government agency or instrumentality that can be run on a mobile phone, tablet, or other
12 similar device and is designed to provide or facilitate the acquisition of government
13 information, services, or some other benefit, shall be created and utilized by each government
14 agency and instrumentality.

15 A GMA may be agency-centric or citizen-centric. Agency-centric GMAs are applications
16 intended for the internal use of a government agency or instrumentality to improve its efficiency
17 and effectiveness. Citizen centric GMAs are for the general public to enable real-time public
18 engagement and service.

19 **SEC. 4. *Government Mobile Applications Steering Committee.*** – There is hereby
20 established a Steering Committee composed of the following members:

21 (a) Secretary of Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), as
22 Chairperson;

23 (b) National Statistician and Head of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);

24 (c) Commissioner of the National Privacy Commission (NPC) and representatives from the
25 following agencies:

26 (d) Philippines Communications Operations Office (PCOO);

27 (e) Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO);

28 (f) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);

29 (g) Department of National Defense (DND);

30 (h) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);

31 (i) Department of Budget and Management (DBM);

32 (j) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);

33 (k) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);

34 (l) Department of Tourism (DOT);

- 1 (m) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- 2 (n) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- 3 (o) Department of Justice (DOJ); and
- 4 (p) Department of Finance (DOF).

5 The Steering Committee may, in the exercise of its functions and as it may deem necessary,
6 invite representatives from other relevant government agencies and instrumentalities to serve as
7 resource persons.

8 The DICT Secretary, as Chair of the Steering Committee and lead developer of the
9 TUGMA, may designate an office within the Department to act as Secretariat for purposes of
10 assisting the Steering Committee in monitoring compliance and conducting periodic reviews.

11 **SEC. 5. *Functions of the Steering Committee.*** – The Steering Committee shall:

- 12 a. Develop and implement policies for the creation and use of GMAs to pursue within the
13 framework of Philippine law;
- 14 b. Establish the uniform standards to be observed by all GMAs and digital service
15 platforms, guided by the principles enunciated in this Act;
- 16 c. Prescribe the information and interface GMAs shall contain and display;
- 17 d. Serve as the overall implementing body of the Transcendent Unified Government
18 Mobile Application (TUGMA), as will be hereinafter created;
- 19 e. Conduct application security and assessment of all GMAs and digital service platforms
20 that will connect to TUGMA and will access local government services and
21 information;
- 22 f. Monitor and require compliance from government agencies and centers with respect to
23 the policies, guidelines, and standards prescribed by the Steering Committee;
- 24 g. Conduct periodic reviews of the administration, operation, policies, rules, and
25 regulations governing GMAs, and update the same in order to reflect the best practices
26 and standards; and
- 27 h. Perform other functions germane or related to the above-mentioned primary functions
28 and the declared policy of this Act.

29 **SEC. 6. *Uniform Standards.*** – In line with the declared policy of this Act, all GMAs shall
30 hereby observe the following uniform standards and characteristics:

- 31 a. Open data and content;
- 32 b. Usability and user experience;
- 33 c. Ease of internal and external data exchange;
- 34 d. Economical Use of budget and resources;

- 1 f. Intelligibility;
- 2 g. Correctness;
- 3 h. Dependability;
- 4 i. Efficiency;
- 5 j. Adaptability;
- 6 k. Multi-lingual functionality;
- 7 l. Wide-compatibility and interoperability; and
- 8 m. Any other standard or quality that will be set by the Steering Committee, which shall be
- 9 consistent with this Act.

10 **SEC. 7. *Standardization of Data Structure.*** – The DICT shall prescribe a standardized
11 framework of data and data infrastructure which shall be observed among government agencies
12 and instrumentalities and shall facilitate the efficient exchange of data in a useful format based
13 on common standards. This shall ensure that all of the data can be used reliably for different
14 types of analyses and purposes, including the creation of GMAs.

15 **SEC. 8. *Transcendent Unified Government Mobile Application.*** – The Transcendent
16 Unified Government Mobile Application hereinafter referred to as “TUGMA”, is hereby
17 created and shall be an online comprehensive portal designed to provide users with basic things
18 such as the contact details, requirements, citizen’s charters, news, bulletins, and other helpful
19 information about the country’s major frontline government services and their associated
20 agencies. It shall also be used to redirect users to specific government applications, websites, or
21 other platforms to streamline transactions, process requests, provide information, and extend
22 any other beneficial use made possible through the implementation of modern technologies and
23 systems.

24 **SEC. 9. *Lead Developer.*** – The DICT shall be the lead agency tasked with the design,
25 development, implementation, distribution, maintenance, and improvement of TUGMA. In line
26 with the agency’s “Philippine Digital Transformation Strategy 2022”, the creation of TUGMA
27 shall pave way to delivering an environment wherein government agencies will be encouraged
28 and incentivized to create their own applications for all major frontline services and collaborate
29 in the context of their respective functions and objectives.

30 **SEC. 10. *Services and Features of TUGMA.*** – TUGMA shall:

- 31 a. Provide information and details regarding the different national agencies, local
- 32 government units, and their frontline programs including the services that they offer,
- 33 their contact information, addresses, service requirements, and citizen’s charters;

- 1 b. Enable its users to apply, register, or otherwise avail of frontline government services
2 and other facilities by being directed to specific applications, websites, or platforms that
3 directly cater to their needs;
- 4 c. Facilitate government transactions by streamlining appointments with government
5 offices and the processing of documents, papers, reports, certificates, deeds,
6 information, and other requests;
- 7 d. Contain or provide access to information regarding available public services, facilities,
8 functions, and other benefits of the government;
- 9 e. Produce a versatile interface with a focus on maximizing usability and enriching user
10 experience;
- 11 f. Reduce unnecessary expenditures by consolidating, if deemed prudent by the Steering
12 Committee, various services and GMAs already being provided;
- 13 g. Function as an avenue wherein one may raise complaints, comments, and suggestions
14 concerning governmental functions; and
- 15 h. Fulfill any other function the Steering Committee may hereinafter provide consistent
16 with the aforementioned declaration of policy; and
- 17 i. Provide users with information regarding the purpose and extent of the processing of
18 their personal data in relation to their transactions, including where applicable, any data
19 sharing, profiling, direct marketing, or the existence of automated decision-making, as
20 well as any other authorized further processing.

21 **SEC. 11. *Philippine Identification System Integration.*** – The Philippine Identification
22 System, as established by Republic Act No. 11055 otherwise known as the Philippine
23 Identification System Act, shall be integrated with TUGMA and shall form as the basis for
24 registering and authenticating the identity of a particular person for purposes of using the
25 TUGMA and to ensure security and privacy.

26 **SEC. 12. *National Government Portal Integration.*** – The National Government Portal
27 (NGP) of the DICT is hereby integrated, combined, or otherwise absorbed by TUGMA and
28 shall thus also include access to local government services and information. To ensure
29 maximum reach, access, and usability, the DICT shall make TUGMA available on a website
30 and as a desktop application, aside from the mobile interface.

31 Government agencies and instrumentalities, if directed by the Steering Committee, shall:

- 32 a. Integrate their online services and GMAs with TUGMA;
- 33 b. Form or designate an agency web administration team from permanent personnel;
- 34 c. Operate, maintain, and manage their respective online services integrated into the NGP;

1 and

2 d. Produce regularly updated content for integration with TUGMA.

3 **SEC. 13. Appropriations.** – The funding requirements for the initial implementation of
4 this Act shall be charged against the current year’s budget of the DICT. Thereafter, it shall be
5 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

6 **SEC. 14. Penal Clause.** – Any unauthorized, fraudulent or unlawful use of data and
7 information in all GMAs and digital service platforms that will connect to TUGMA and
8 anyone who willfully violates any provision of this Act shall be held liable under the pertinent
9 provisions of the Data Privacy Act (RA 10173), Cybercrime Prevention Act (RA 10175), and
10 other relevant laws.

11 **SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from the
12 effectivity of this Act, the Steering Committee shall convene and shall promulgate the
13 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

14 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
15 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected shall
16 continue to remain in full force and effect.

17 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, decrees executive order, rules and
18 regulations, or parts or provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to remain in full
19 force and effect.

20 **SEC. 18. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
21 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22 Approved,