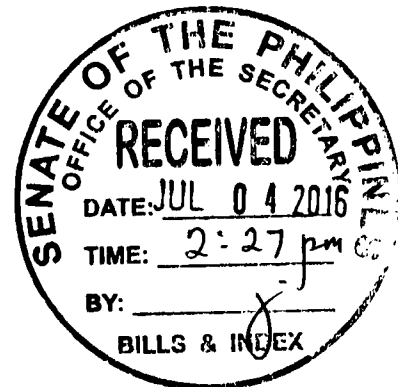


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
S.B. No. 353

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE AS PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF STRATEGIC NATIONAL ROADS AND HIGHWAYS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As our island nation continues to build roads that connect communities and expand logistics, we also have an opportunity to improve our information and communications technology (ICT) and boost access to the information superhighway.

Imagine working CCTV cameras at every corner, roads designed with fiber optic cables and electrical networks beneath them, and stop signs that radiate mobile data signals.

No longer relegated to the pages of a sci-fi novel or the screening of a futuristic movie, this level of design and technology is in the here and now, readily available for our utilization. Why not take advantage of today's technology and design infrastructure to deliver as many services as it can to our citizens?

The Shared Infrastructure for ICT Bill encourages us to rethink and maximize our infrastructure projects to include features that advance our ICT.

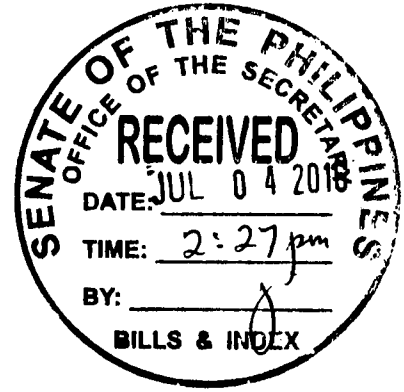
This measure pushes for the inclusion on shared utility corridors for fiber optic cables in road networks in the hopes of improving connectivity and increasing competition for Internet service providers while generating additional revenue for the government.

Let's make the most of our infrastructure projects and endeavor to provide quick, quality access to ICT services to every Filipino.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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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 "*Shared Infrastructure for*
2 *Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Development Act*".

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to maximize the use of
4 existing government assets and infrastructure by encouraging private sector investments
5 and partnerships to ensure efficient and effective information and communications
6 technology (ICT) infrastructure and systems.

7 **SEC. 3. Shared Infrastructure for ICT Development.** - The Department of Information
8 and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Department of Public Works and Highways
9 (DPWH) shall collaborate to create:

- 10 a) **Philippine National Road and Fiber Optic Cable Network (Convergence**
11 **Network).** The DPWH and the DICT shall utilize the DPWH's Philippine
12 National Roads as conduit for the deployment of the DICT fiber optic
13 network. The DPWH shall incorporate the installation of ducts/subducts on
14 highways, new road constructions, renovations, and maintenance. The
15 DPWH shall likewise encourage local government units to do the same; and
16 b) **Training Program on the Use of the Fiber Optic Cables (FOC).** The DICT shall
17 prepare a training program covering the operation, use, and maintenance of
18 the FOC network. The training program shall be provided to the DPWH and
19 other government agencies that are connected to the Convergence Network.

20 **SEC. 4. Leasing of Shared Infrastructure.** – The DPWH, in coordination with DICT,
21 shall make these Convergence Networks available for lease to entities. Priority shall be given
22 to government operations and private sector initiatives targeting underserved and
23 marginalized sectors that need government assistance to interconnect. *Provided,* That when
24 there is an existing Convergence Network, the DPWH shall no longer issue any permits to

1 allow the construction of new ICT infrastructure, unless the Convergence Network has
2 already reached its carrying capacity.

3
4 The DICT shall reserve the right to allow legally authorized third parties with legal
5 qualifications to access or to use the ducts and subducts, without adversely affecting the
6 fiber optics installed by the DICT. Further guidelines, rules, and policies on the lease and use
7 of the Convergence Networks shall be issued by the DPWH in coordination with the DICT.

8 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
9 effectivity of this Act, the DPWH and the DICT and other relevant government agencies,
10 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
11 this Act.

12 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
13 or other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
14 modified accordingly.

15 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall
17 remain in force and effect.

18 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) after its publication in the
19 Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

20 *Approved,*