



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1239

**Introduced by Representatives FRANCISCO JOSE "BINGO" F.
MATUGAS II and LUIS N. CAMPOS JR.**

**A RESOLUTION
STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
INCREASE THE FUNDS TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 TO PROVIDE BROADER,
FASTER, AND MORE AFFORDABLE INTERNET ACCESS TO
FILIPINOS**

WHEREAS, during his penultimate State of the Nation Address, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, called on all government instrumentalities to transition to online systems and “adjust to and adopt a paper-less type business and work performance” to enable the Government to transition to the “new normal”;

WHEREAS, the President also promised that before he steps down in 2022, the Public Education Network or PEN, which will connect all public schools and the Department of Education’s offices nationwide will be realized;

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic has emphasized how critical reliable internet service is and how many of our countrymen, especially in far-flung and underprivileged areas, who do not have access to the same, are left behind;

WHEREAS, the Department of Information and Communications Technology’s (“DICT”) two very important flagship projects - (a) the National

Broadband Program (“NBP”); and (b) Free Wi-Fi Internet Access in Public Places and SUCs (“Free Wi-Fi For All”) – was supposed to address this problem. The NBP is supposed to address “the growing demand for connectivity and in supporting socio-economic growth through digitization of processes, enabling of work-from-home arrangements, empowering of MSMEs and tourism, and facilitating the seamless exchange of data and information between and among government units/entities”;

WHEREAS, instead of giving DICT the necessary funding to proceed with the NBP and Free-Wi-Fi for All, the Department of Budget and Management (“DBM”) reduced the budget for these programs;

WHEREAS, the proposed budget of NBP is Php18,178,708,149.20 but only Php902,194,000.00 was approved by the DBM. Moreover, the proposed budget for Free Wi-Fi For All is 6,350,579,000.00 but only Php2,725,461,000.00 was approved by the DBM. Thus, a total of **Php20,901,632,149.20** is needed to proceed with these projects;

WHEREAS, it must be noted that National Agencies of Government are spending about Php6.5 Billion every year on internet subscriptions. Including the subscriptions of local government units, the amount could easily be Php10 Billion annually;


WHEREAS, with the NBP, Government is expected to enjoy an internet speed of approximately **1.5 tbps or terabits per second**, comparable to the internet speed enjoyed by First World countries. Thus, it will be more efficient, and cost-effective to give the DICT the funding needed to continue with the NBP and Free Wi-Fi For All rather than spend Php10 Billion every year on internet subscriptions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives is urged to increase the funds to be appropriated to the Department of Information and Communications Technology for Fiscal Year 2021 by **Php20,901,632,149.20** in order to provide broader, faster, and more affordable internet access to Filipinos as we transition into the “new normal,” in particular:

Programs and Projects	Proposed 2021 Budget	2021 NEP	Proposed Additional Budget
National Broadband Program (NBP)	18,178,708,149.20	902,194,000.00	17,276,514,149.20
Free Wi-Fi Internet Access in Public Places and SUCs	6,350,579,000.00	2,725,461,000.00	3,625,118,000.00
TOTAL	24,529,287,149.20	3,627,655,000.00	20,901,632,149.20

Adopted,


**HON. FRANCISCO JOSE
 "BINGO" F. MATUGAS II**
*Vice Chairperson, Committee on
 Appropriations*


HON. LUIS N. CAMPOS JR.
*Vice Chairperson, Committee on
 Appropriations*