Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1253


A RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN (NBP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT) TO SPEED UP THE GOVERNMENT WITH ITS IMPERATIVE DUTY TO ACCELERATE INTERNET CONNECTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s response to the public clamor for cheaper and faster internet service, directed the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to develop the National Broadband Plan (NBP), a locally funded project (LFP) which will serve as an outline to accelerate the deployment of fiber optic cables and wireless technologies thus, improving the country’s internet speed and connectivity;

WHEREAS, the DICT as the principal and lead information and communications technology (ICT) agency of the government, shall plan, develop and promote the national ICT development agenda, and will craft and implement a national broadband policy, to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment and improve public access;

WHEREAS, the NBP aims to provide faster and more efficient broadband connectivity to all public sectors and public segments of the country, particularly for public hospitals, rural health units, public schools, state universities and colleges; aid in the consolidation, speedy and accurate updating, and seamless transmission of data and information between national agencies and local units, especially with the present crises due to the Covid-19 pandemic; and facilitate provision of internet connectivity to unserved and underserved areas where services of private telcos are limited, therefore ensuring that all Filipinos have access to broadband capability;
WHEREAS, the current SARS COVID-19 pandemic which placed the entire country on imposed community quarantines, highlighted the need to accelerate the digitalization of the Philippine economy, however, access to quality internet services is a prerequisite to successfully participate and thrive in the digital economy;

WHEREAS, Philippine digital transformation would require resilient, affordable, reliable and widely available internet services that are essential to support economic recovery post COVID-19 in the medium term, and more equitable growth and competitiveness in the long term;

WHEREAS, in the proposed 2021 national budget, the National Broadband Plan is allocated with the amount of Php 902,194,000.00, only 8.8% of the total budget allocation for the DICT, which the Committee believes would hamper the immediate and efficient roll-out of the NBP;

WHEREAS, there is a need to increase the Maintenance and Other Operating Expense (MOOE) to enable the NBP to fully operate and the capital outlay (CO), although not a recurring amount in the budget, investment in infrastructure and equipment is necessary to improve the country’s internet speed and connectivity, thereby enhancing the country’s digital capability and competitiveness;

WHEREAS, the NBP is vital to participate and thrive in the digital economy for the country’s economic recovery, thus, it is but just and reasonable that full funding of the budget allocated for NBP should be implemented to better serve the present and future digital needs of the country;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, for the House Committee on Information and Communications Technology to express support for the full implementation of the National Broadband Plan with the amount of Php 17,276,514,149.20 as additional funding requirement for FY 2021;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to require the DICT in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and other concerned government agencies to conduct jointly studies on the amount for the continuous funding requirement of the NBP in order for it to fulfill its mandate and functions;

RESOLVED FINALLY, for these budgetary amounts to be submitted to the House of Representatives annually for its inclusion in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Adopted,