

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9911



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recent years, the Republic of the Philippines has become one of the fastest growing economies in the region. Fueled by an increase in public spending, fiscal reform and renewed investor confidence, the country is now considered a regional showcase for socioeconomic progress. It has adopted a viewpoint of inclusive growth under the “**Build Build Build**” program which equates good economics with good governance. This emphasizes governance as an ingredient in achieving national growth.

Still, the Philippines is now faced with the challenge of sustaining its impressive growth. This places a demand on government to provide an environment that ensures openness, efficiency in the delivery of services, and spaces for greater competitiveness. With this demand, together with increased expectations, requires the government to optimize the role of **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** in governance.

This House Bill seeks to create an **E-Governance master plan**, to move on from the non-integrated path of ICT development and agency-specific applications, toward a path that leads to an E-Government model that creates more valuable and meaningful services through interoperability and maximization of resources.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Romero", written over a horizontal dotted line.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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AN ACT

CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE E-GOVERNANCE MASTER PLAN,
TO FOSTER THE TRANSITION OF GOVERNMENT PROCESSES TO
THE DIGITAL AGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE – This Act shall be known as the “**E-Governance Master Plan of 2021.**”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY – It shall hereby be a declared policy of the state to establish a blueprint for the integration of ICTs for the whole of government.

The State shall base on past plans while incorporating current aspirations to create a vision for the future.

The State shall realize that the issue of interoperability and harmonization is not solely a technical problem, but also includes many organizational concerns that need to be overcome.

The State shall develop a master plan to determine the systems of governance among all institutions, agencies, processes, resources and policies that need to be strengthened to make its implementation possible and sustainable.

SECTION 3. E-GOVERNANCE MASTER PLAN – There shall hereby be created a E-Governance Act, based on an assessment study on **E-Government** development conducted in previous years since 2012.

It is highly recommended that the activities that must be undertaken to achieve the ICT goals of the Philippines shall include the assessment of the current **ICT/E-Government** state of the Philippines, therefor, Benchmarking techniques to be used to create a Model that fits the Philippine context.

The State shall act with the intent to operationalize the E-Government thrust of the existing *Philippine Digital Strategy*, the E-Government shall acknowledge the important role that ICT plays in facilitating open and transparent government and the delivery of efficient public services.

In general, the *E-Governance Master Plan* shall provide the E-Government builders and partners with the following:

- i. **Strategy for Implementing e-Government** - The E-Government master plan shall adopt a whole-of-government approach that supports the Philippine Development Plan. As the E-Government implementation strategy, the *Medium-Term ICT Harmonization Initiative* places a premium on government interoperability, collaboration and shared resources. This focus highlights the need to develop basic national electronic registries that will be used to support interoperability efforts. While placing a premium on interoperability, it does not exclude mission-critical, agency-specific applications to further improve the delivery of services.
- ii. **Priority Projects, Milestones, Resource Estimates** - The E-Government master plan shall present building blocks for e-Government that include an initial list of priority projects to enable and facilitate many other projects. It is primarily aimed at

maximizing the use of ICT resources through shared ICT infrastructure and services for government agencies. The E-Government Master Plan shall also provide an incipient **“Action Plan”** in the form of indicative milestones and estimates for resources needed for implementation.

- iii. **Mechanisms** - Consistent with the **“Build Build Build”** program, the E-Government Master Plan shall highlight the importance of collaboration, interoperability, shared services, and openness. It shall include the list of proposed policies and mechanisms for creating and ensuring an environment that institutionalizes open government. Government interoperability frameworks (**GIFs**) and similar mechanisms that shall be crucial to the e-Governance agenda.

SECTION 4. MISSION AND VISION – The E-Government in the Philippines is envisioned to create *“a digitally empowered and integrated government that provides responsive and transparent online citizen-centered services for a globally competitive Filipino nation.”*

To achieve this, the E-Government Master Plan aims to provide E-Government the following:

- **For citizens**, shall link e-Government programs with development goals. Recognizing the importance of efficient delivery of public services, the plan identifies implementation areas that can ensure maximum benefits for citizens.
- **For government**, shall provide the blueprint for implementing e-Government initiatives. The plan places a premium on value-adding, shared services, interoperability and the maximization of public resources. It also provides a platform for open government, mindful of anchoring its initiatives on principles of good governance.
- **For civil society organizations (CSOs)**, the private sector, and other partners, this shall provide spaces for participation and fosters synergy in governance. The plan highlights the importance of accountability and recognizes the role of CSOs as partners in governance.
- **For policy makers**, shall identify the policy and advocacy areas that need to be addressed in creating an environment necessary for fostering an integrated, interoperable and harmonized system of e-Governance.

- **Furthermore**, given the speed by which ICTs and their usage evolve, this shall also underscore the need for institutionalizing dedicated resources for research not only in the creation of applications, but also in studying the implications these may have on governance policies in general.

SECTION 5. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,