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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1000

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A  
NATIONAL BROADBAND PROGRAM THAT COULD ALLEGEDLY COUNTER  
THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 24 states: The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building;

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 9 of the same states: The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 12 April 2009 issue reported that it other countries are allegedly adopting a national broadband program to counter the economic crisis;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Intel, a global chip maker company, recently gathered government IT and economic development managers in the Asia-Pacific region to highlight the benefits of national broadband program, which in turn could help speed up the broadband Internet expansion worldwide;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Navin Shenoy, Intel Asia-Pacific's general manager, said that information and communication technology (ICT) has become a critical component in government spending especially in developing countries and has been generating "larger gains in jobs, productivity, and innovation";

WHEREAS, Shenoy also allegedly pointed out that ICT investments has been responsible for accelerating productivity in the United States between 1996 and 2002, contributing much to its gross national product;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that Robert Atkinson, advisor to the Obama administration on economic stimulus and president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, said that a \$10-billion health IT investment stimulus was responsible for creating 212,105 jobs and 121,675 small businesses in the United States;

WHEREAS, in addition, Atkinson claimed that in Korea, 20 percent of growth in its gross domestic income came from ICT between 1995 and 2004, while in China, ICT usage accounted for 21 percent of gross domestic product growth;

WHEREAS, Atkinson also allegedly said that in Malaysia, the use of ICT has the largest impact on manufacturing productivity, larger than human capital;

WHEREAS, in the report Atkinson also highlighted the benefits of a national broadband program such as it would allow the government to reach its citizens and provide them the necessary services; enable e-learning, or long-distance learning, particularly for residents of far-flung areas; provide easy access to government information and health care through e-health; and provide aid to small businesses;

WHEREAS, Atkinson also reportedly added that broadband investments in the United States had reached \$27 billion; in South Korea, it hit \$12 billion; in Finland, \$23 billion; in Ireland, \$24 billion; and in Singapore, \$23 billion;

WHEREAS, the report also stated that according to Shenoy the most cost effective wireless broadband infrastructure, such as Wimax, would be the ideal technology to push for;

WHEREAS, the government should explore different ways, such as learning from the projects implemented by other countries, that could help counter the economic crisis;

WHEREAS, the legislature should study the possible need for a national broadband program that would benefit the country in the long run;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported possibility of creating a national broadband program that could allegedly counter the economic crisis.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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