



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

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RECEIVED BY:

SENATE

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 78

Submitted by the Committee on Economic Affairs, jointly with the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship on MAY 16 2017.

Re: **Proposed Senate Resolution No. 213** by Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian

Recommending the Adoption of this Report and its Recommendations.

Sponsor: **Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian**

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Economic Affairs, jointly with the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, conducted an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on **Proposed Senate Resolution No. 213**, introduced by Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian, titled:

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO GENERATE EVIDENTIARY DATA TO ESTABLISH THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS UPON THE CONSUMER IN PARTICULAR, AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY IN GENERAL, OF THE PRESENT MODEL OF OPERATION AND REGULATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, TO THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING POLICY TO STRENGTHEN KEY ECONOMIC REFORMS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE COUNTRY'S MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND LONG-TERM VISION AND PROTECTIVE OF THE INTERESTS OF CONSUMERS IN A ROBUST ECONOMY THAT IS FOSTERED BY FREE COMPETITION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The Committee has the honor to submit its Report, after conducting an inquiry and three public hearings, to the Senate.

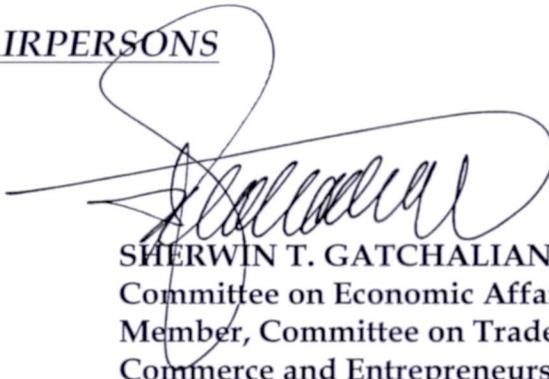
Recommending the adoption of the recommendations contained herein.

Respectfully Submitted:

CHAIRPERSONS



JUAN MIGUEL "Migz" F. ZUBIRI
Committee on Trade, Commerce
and Entrepreneurship;
Vice Chairperson, Committee on
Economic Affairs



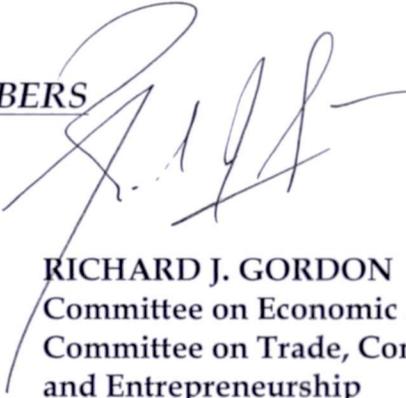
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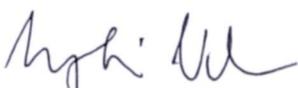
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Committee on Economic Affairs

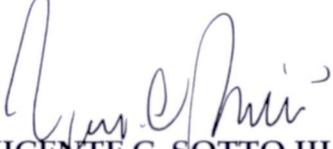
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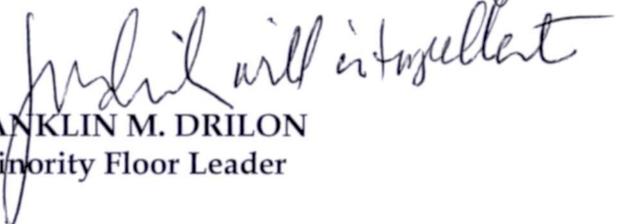
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President
Senate of the Philippines

I. INTRODUCTION

The 1987 Constitution recognizes the primary role of the private sector as engine of economic growth and guarantees the right of corporations to own, establish and operate economic enterprises. The use of property, however, bears a social function and the State has the duty to regulate the acquisition, ownership, use and disposition of property, including the regulation or prohibition of monopolies and combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition when the public interest so requires.

Pursuant to these state policies, liberalization reforms in the country's telecommunications industry have led to the granting of new franchises to new players from the private sector to expand, improve and innovate the telecommunications industry, subject to the government's regulatory framework through the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) which exercises jurisdiction over the supervision, adjudication and control over all telecommunications services in the country. These players from the private sector – more widely called as the “telcos” or telecommunications companies – are likewise governed by the country's laws and regulations on competition, primarily through the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC).

The NTC has set its mission to “proactively and continually create a responsive regulatory environment for a viable, affordable, reliable and accessible telecommunications and information infrastructure and services to ensure the welfare and protection of our people.”¹ However, despite efforts at making the telecommunications industry an open, competitive and dynamic sector of the Philippine economy, the Philippines was ranked to have the slowest internet speed in the whole of Asia Pacific as revealed in the latest State of the Internet Report of Akamai for the fourth quarter of 2016. In the same Report, Akamai said that South Korea was again the top country in the world for the average connection speed. The GAP between South Korea and the slowest country in Asia Pacific – the Philippines – was 22 Mbps. This, notwithstanding, the Philippines has some of the most expensive internet connections in the world.²

¹ NTC's Quality Management System, 2016.

² <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/489762/scitech/technology/list-philippines-ranks-21st-of-22-asian-countries-in-internet-download-speed>

TABLE 1: RANKED ACCORDING TO INTERNET SPEED

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.AKAMAL.COM/US/EN/MULTIMEDIA/DOCUMENTS/STATE-OF-THE-INTERNET/Q4-2016-STATE-OF-THE-INTERNET-CONNECTIVITY-REPORT.PDF](https://www.akamal.com/us/en/multimedia/documents/state-of-the-internet/q4-2016-state-of-the-internet-connectivity-report.pdf)

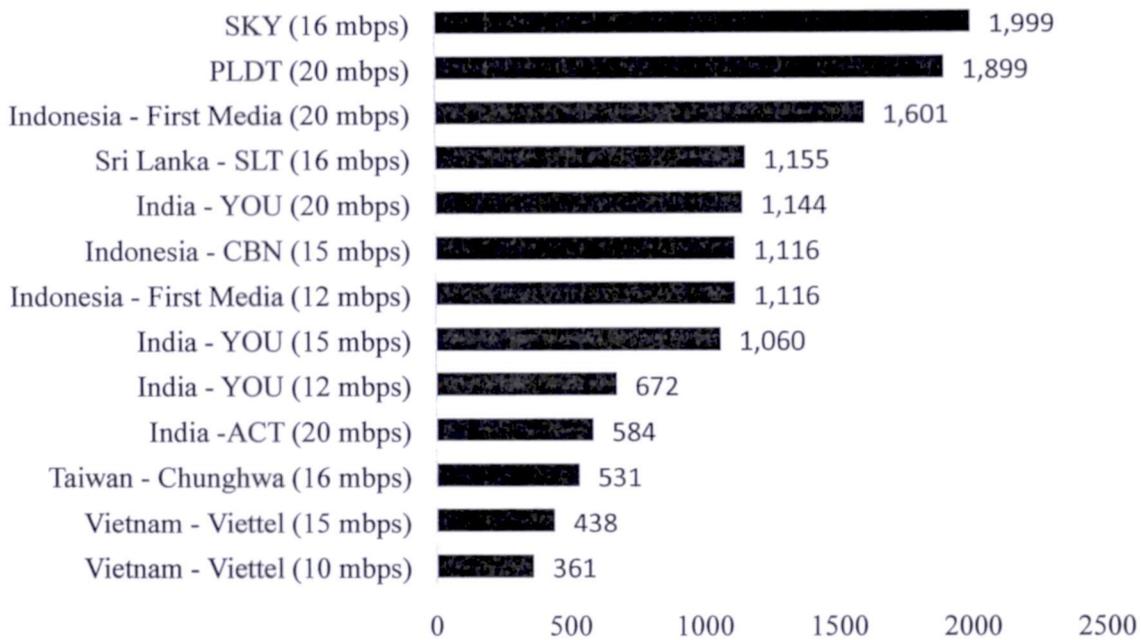
COUNTRY	AVG MBPS	NUMBEO COST USD (10 MBPS, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL)	NUMBEO COST PHP
South Korea	26.1	21.96	1,098.00
Hong Kong	21.9	26.79	1,339.50
Singapore	20.2	29.82	1,491.00
Japan	19.6	36.23	1,811.50
Taiwan	15.6	23.58	1,179.00
Thailand	13.3	18.04	902.00
New Zealand	12.9	57.78	2,889.00
Australia	10.1	51.28	2,564.00
Vietnam	8.3	10.7	535.00
Malaysia	8.2	36.9	1,845.00
Sri Lanka	7.3	17.21	860.50
Indonesia	6.7	26.13	1,306.50
China	6.3	14.09	704.50
India	5.6	18.34	917.00
Philippines	4.5	42.36	2,118.00

TABLE 2: RANKED ACCORDING TO INTERNET COST

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.NUMBEO.COM/COST-OF-LIVING/COUNTRY_PRICE_RANKINGS?ITEMID=33](https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_price_rankings?itemid=33)

COUNTRY	AVG MBPS	NUMBEO COST USD (10 MBPS, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL)	NUMBEO COST PHP
Vietnam	8.3	10.7	535.0
China	6.3	14.09	704.5
Sri Lanka	7.3	17.21	860.5
Thailand	13.3	18.04	902
India	5.6	18.34	917
South Korea	26.1	21.96	1098
Taiwan	15.6	23.58	1179
Indonesia	6.7	26.13	1306.5
Hong Kong	21.9	26.79	1339.5
Singapore	20.2	29.82	1491
Japan	19.6	36.23	1811.5
Malaysia	8.2	36.9	1845
Philippines	4.5	42.36	2118
Australia	10.1	51.28	2564
New Zealand	12.9	57.78	2889

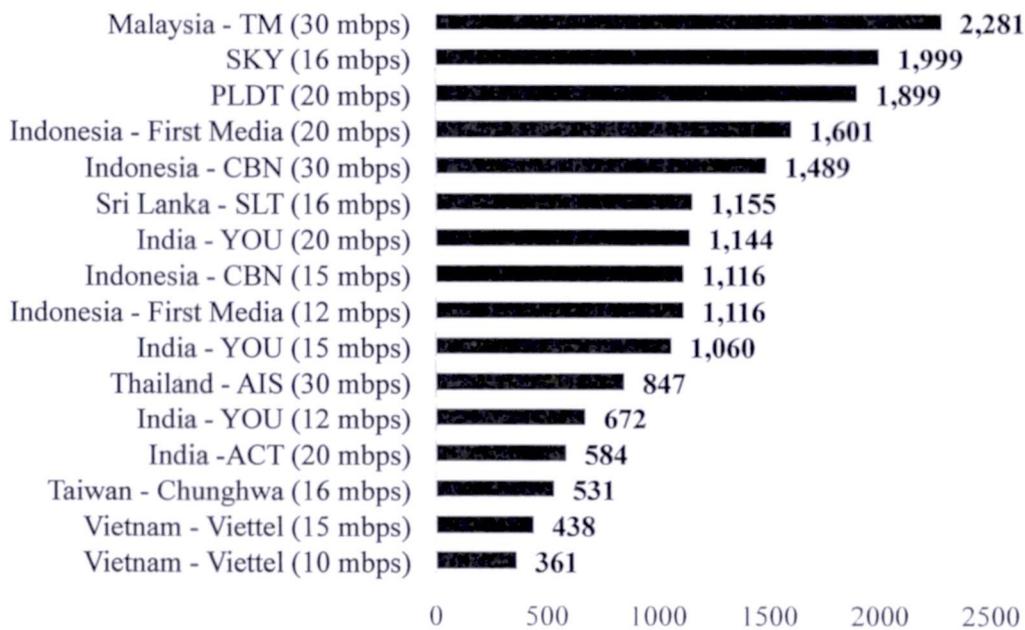
TABLE 3: PRICE RANGE OF DATA PLANS WITH SPEEDS OF 10-20 MBPS



Source: Official ISP Websites

- The cost of SKY's 16 Mbps service is twice that of YOU's 15 Mbps service, four times that of Chunghwa's 16 Mbps service, and five times that of Viettel's 15 Mbps service.
- The cost of PLDT's 20 Mbps service is 1.6 times that of YOU's 20 Mbps service and thrice that of ACT's 20 Mbps service.

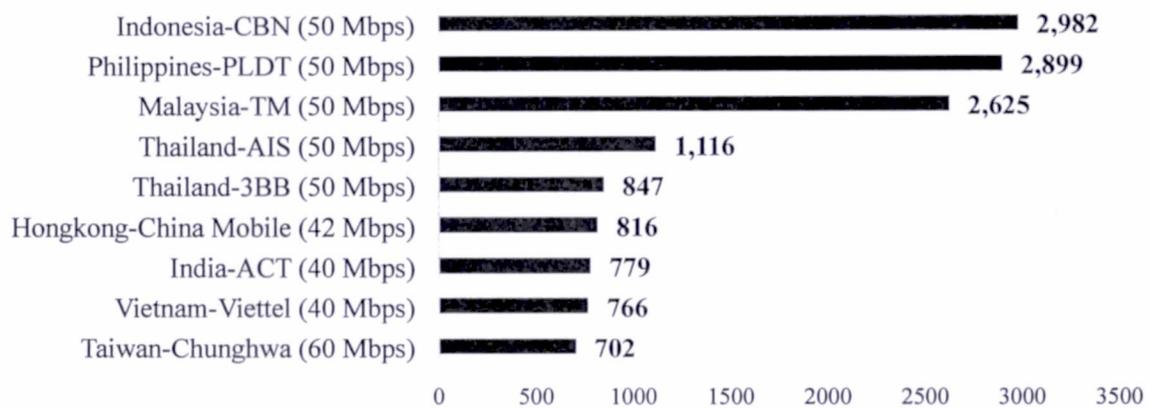
TABLE 4: PRICE RANGE OF DATA PLANS WITH SPEEDS OF 10-30 MBPS



Source: Official ISP Websites

- Despite the fact that Malaysia TM has a higher price than SKY and PLDT, two things are of note:
 - Malaysia TM is offering 30 Mbps - a speed that is markedly higher than speeds offered by PLDT (20 Mbps) and Sky (16 Mbps)
 - Malaysia's per capita GDP is 3.5 times that of the Philippines
 - This means that the impact is much lower on the income of Malaysians

TABLE 5: PRICE RANGE OF DATA PLANS WITH SPEEDS OF 40-60 MBPS



Source: Official ISP Websites

- The cost of PLDT's 50 Mbps service is 2.6 times that of AIS's 50 Mbps service and 3.5 times that of China Mobile's 42 Mbps service.

Such context pervading the telecommunications industry prompted this legislative inquiry to determine if the present model of operation and regulation of the telecommunications industry provides the consumer genuine options, quality service, innovative activities and lower prices – factors which make the telecommunications industry a viable sector of the economy. It was an inquiry to determine how to enable the telecommunications sector – in the midst of a rapidly evolving technological ecosystem – through the formulation of policies that will strengthen the present regulatory framework. An empowered telecommunications sector is an engine for attracting investments and creating jobs – both of which are essential to attaining inclusive growth and improving the quality of life that represents the long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country under the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 and AmBisyon Natin 2040.

II. DELIMITATION OF ISSUES

This legislative inquiry was conducted to generate evidentiary data in order to establish the economic effects upon the consumer in particular, and the national economy in general, of the present model of operation and regulation of the telecommunications industry, to the end in view of recommending policy to strengthen key economic reforms that are consistent with the country's medium-term development plan and long-term vision, and protective of the interests of consumers in a robust economy that is fostered by free competition and inclusive growth.

The issues discussed in the public hearings were delimited by the following points of inquiry on REGULATION, COMPETITION and SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT:

A. REGULATION

1. Does the present model of operation and regulation of the telecommunications industry promote the paramount welfare of the consumer and enable the telecommunications industry to be a viable sector of the economy?
2. What reforms – constitutional and/or statutory – are necessary to foster competition and empower the telecommunications sector as an engine for attracting both local and foreign investments and creating jobs which is essential to attaining inclusive growth?

B. COMPETITION

1. Does the present system allow within its regulatory context the realization of the policies under the national competition law and the attainment of its objectives?
2. Does the joint acquisition of the 700-megahertz spectrum by two telecommunications companies have an economic effect on the consumer in terms of prices, options and quality of mobile services? Did it reduce, or eliminate, the viability for a third player into the telecommunications industry?
3. Are there effective remedies – constitutional, statutory, technological or otherwise – that would still enable the telecommunications industry to admit potential viable players despite such joint acquisition?

C. SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

1. Does the present model of spectrum allocation provide the most efficient method of assignment for purposes of allowing the entry of new competitors in the telecommunications industry?
2. With the joint acquisition of the 700-Megahertz spectrum – which has resulted in a “spectrum split” between the duopoly – can a viable third party still enter the market?
3. Are there existing effective remedies – constitutional, statutory, technological or otherwise – that would enable the telecommunications industry to admit potential third players despite such joint acquisition?

III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

III. A. REGULATION

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND ITS ORGANIZATIONAL HANDICAP

1. The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) should be **reorganized** as an independent regulator imbued with fiscal autonomy. There is also an urgent need to **depoliticize** the appointment of its commissioners. Given the complexity and the rapidly evolving nature of the industry, it is imperative to appoint commissioners fully capable of formulating and deploying policies for the sustainable development of the telecommunications industry.

2. In the past, NTC officers that engaged (or were poised to engage) in activities that could be construed as detrimental to the bottom-line of public telecommunications entities (PTEs) were threatened with lawsuits. The inability of the NTC to shield its officers and their actions from litigation could be viewed as a critical vulnerability. It constrains and/or discourages NTC officers from implementing plans of action that will promote the welfare of Filipino consumers.

3. Based on Commonwealth Act No. 146 (otherwise known as the "Public Service Act), a penalty of PHP 200/day is imposed on a PTE that does not satisfy its designed minimum speed requirement. Given the size of the telecommunications industry as well as the magnitude of its revenues, this penalty is, at best, a mere token gesture. Moreover, no single case has been filed by the NTC against PTEs despite appeals made by consumers and consumer groups. In lieu of filing cases, the NTC has offered a shame campaign wherein they publish reports alluding to the quality of service (QOS) of PTEs.

THE LIMITATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7925

1. Republic Act No. 7925 (otherwise known as the "Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines") does not contain provisions that govern the **convergence** of telecommunications technology, net neutrality, and so-called fair usage policies. The NTC thus argues that it possesses no regulatory power over value-added services (VAS) - which include internet data - and its power is limited to the issuance of

certificates of registration. Since internet services are considered as VAS, the NTC is barred from setting tariffs for internet services. They cannot set interconnection charges.

2. RA 7925 does not have provisions that are specifically designed to govern the sale of broadband services. The law was primarily designed to govern the sale of landline services and the allocation of frequencies for cable modem termination system (CMTS). It is significant, however, that many of the aforementioned frequencies are presently deployed for data services.

IMPLEMENTATION AND PERFORMANCE

1. The management of consumer complaints regarding the quality of telecommunications services is limited to referrals and public consultations, the results of which may or may not be made available for public scrutiny.

2. The NTC issued Memorandum Circular (MC) 07-07-2011 which imposed a monthly reliability metric of at least 80%. The NTC also issued MC 07-08-2015 which mandated itself to measure and publish the speed and QOS of PTEs. The NTC has not, however, issued any publication detailing the speed and QOS of PTEs.

Thus, there remain NO standards for the deployment of the five metrics commonly used to measure internet service performance: upload speed, download speed, latency, jitter and packet loss. Given the absence of a framework for the deployment of these metrics, the NTC is presently incapable of formulating a reliable index for the QOS of PTEs.

3. In lieu of rigorous studies on internet speed, reliability and QOS of PTEs, the NTC conducts infrequent tests of internet speed – with small sample sizes. In addition, the NTC admitted during the public hearings that it relied on third-party analyses of internet service quality in the Philippines.

III. B. COMPETITION

1. The telecommunications industry is imbued with public interest. Its privatization must be counterbalanced with strict regulation to ensure that the welfare gains do not solely accrue to PTEs. The profit orientation of the private firm has to be tempered by regulation to promote the welfare of the public.

The mere entry of additional players does not guarantee a more competitive environment. The capacity of new entrants to compete against the existing duopoly is contingent on the availability of a broad array of frequencies, the accessibility of industry-leading innovations and technologies, their level of capitalization, the capacity of consumers to shift from one carrier to another (portability) and the differences (or lack of differences thereof) in the incentive systems that govern new players.

2. During the public hearing, the NTC officials pronounced that the available spectrum allocations are sufficient for the entry of a viable third player in the telecommunications industry. They conceded, however, that the entry of a third player will require massive capitalization and would most likely require government support – a position strikingly similar to that of GLOBE and SMART.

To be sure, the statement of the NTC that the available spectrum is sufficient to admit a viable third player, cannot be taken hook, line and sinker. The so-called “workhorse call and text frequencies” are currently controlled by GLOBE and SMART. The workhorse frequencies in the 900Mhz and 1800Mhz bands are the bands used by non-LTE cellular phones for calls and texts. On the other hand, the 700Mhz, 850Mhz, and 2500Mhz up to 3400 Mhz bands are frequencies that can only be used by LTE-enabled cellular phones.

The monopolization of the “workhorse frequencies” makes it impossible for a third player to **viably** compete against GLOBE and SMART. Given prevailing conditions, the hypothetical third player will be limited to data-driven services. They will not be able to provide services for calls and texts at par with the array of services offered by the duopoly. While there is a marked shift towards the broader dispersion and usage of data-driven services, calls and texts still serve important functions in modern telecommunications. Further, a third player that cannot provide services for calls and texts would be limited to offering packages that would be markedly less desirable than those offered by GLOBE and SMART – wherein calls and texts are tacked on top of data services.

3. The acquisition of the 700Mhz frequency band by GLOBE and SMART further crowds out potential third players. In securing the 700Mhz frequencies, they effectively prevented a third player from establishing a beachhead into the telecommunications industry by (1) securing more of the “workhorse frequencies” and (2) maximizing the functionality of their existing cellular tower networks.

III. C. SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

1. Republic Act No. 3846 (or the "Radio Control Law of the Philippines") empowers the NTC to control the allocation of spectrum. RA 7925 sets two basic principles for spectrum allocation and assignment: (a) allocation should be given to the best-qualified applicant, and (b) when demand for specific frequencies exceed availability, an open tender bidding process shall be used. Given the size of the industry and the supposedly cut-throat competition between PTEs, it stands to reason that demand for spectrum is high enough to warrant a spectrum auction.

In other jurisdictions, a spectrum is a channel or a band which is **not issued for the life of a franchise**. Instead, PTEs are given licenses to lease spectrum allocations. Depending on the jurisdiction, these leases last from three to ten years and are equipped with lease provisions that allow the government to re-acquire the allocations if such PTEs failed to comply with service standards.

2. In 1999, instead of conducting a spectrum auction, the NTC merely **allocated** spectrum frequencies to SMART and GLOBE. The NTC reasoned that conducting a rigorous auction then would have delayed the roll-out of telecommunications infrastructure by SMART and GLOBE – thereby preventing them from responding adequately to then growing SMS demand.

3. On the issue of the joint acquisition by GLOBE and SMART of the 700 Mhz frequencies previously owned by VEGA – a subsidiary of San Miguel Corporation – the NTC believes that this would **substantially improve** the services of SMART and GLOBE by expanding the functionality of their existing network of cell sites. The joint acquisition would allow existing cell sites to decongest in-use frequencies and deliver improved services to consumers. SMART and GLOBE indicated that the full impact of their acquisition of the 700 Mhz frequencies will be felt sometime in May 2017.

4. The failure of the NTC to properly govern publicly-owned spectrum has resulted in the private trading of spectrum. Private corporations essentially treated spectrum allocations as their property, resulting in relatively easy and effective "spectrum trading" via corporate mergers and acquisitions – as in the recent case of the joint acquisition of the 700 Mhz frequencies.

5. The NTC approved the PLDT-GLOBE 700 Mhz Co-Use Agreement subject to the following conditions:

1. Immediate commencement and implementation of the Co-Use Agreement;
2. Increase in capacity, *i.e.* broadband and internet access speed, within 1 year and submission of a progress report on the matter on a quarterly basis;
3. Submission of a roll-out plan to cover at least 90% of cities and municipalities in three years;
4. Payment of Spectrum User's Fee and other required fees and charges;
5. Securing from NTC separate permits and licenses for radio stations owned by each company; and
6. Allowing the NTC to access the base stations or cell sites for monitoring purposes.

- The NTC reserved the power to terminate the Co-Use Agreement in case of violation of any of the aforementioned conditions.
- The NTC approved the Co-Use Agreement without benchmarking, defining or establishing reference parameters to determine what improvements in speed, reliability and QOS would constitute as "substantial improvement" in the services of SMART and GLOBE prior to the approval of the Co-Use Agreement.

6. While there are two grounds for the recall of spectrum (within one year from spectrum assignment) - (1) **non-payment** of spectrum user fees and (2) **non-use** of the spectrum, these grounds are too loose given that the spectrum user fees are not particularly high and the definition of spectrum "usage" provides PTEs a lot of latitude.

7. OTHER JURISDICTIONS:

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of **India** (TRAI) has adopted a dynamic spectrum allocation mechanism wherein frequencies are allocated regionally to ensure the efficient utilization of frequencies. It has been adopted for FM radio, TV and AM radio.
- In **Japan**, the mode of spectrum assignment has resulted in a fiercely competitive telecommunications services industry. Their PTEs offer faster download speeds, more reliable coverage and cheaper services than SMART and GLOBE.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Empower and strengthen the NTC** to enable it to create an environment of regulatory certainty and operational conditions necessary to promote the paramount welfare of consumers and encourage the continued local and international investments in the telecommunications industry.

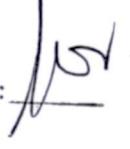
2. **Increase competition *via* a more transparent system of spectrum allocation, assignment and re-farming, as well as the development, promotion, and deployment of a competitive selection process** in the allocation of publicly-owned spectrum. The system must be improved in a manner that best serves the public interest and the promotion of greater competition in the market.

3. **Implement Mobile Number Portability.** The ability to retain one's existing mobile number even when switching to another service provider will not only benefit the consumer in terms of the unprecedented convenience of maintaining a "mobile identity". It will spur competition and efficiency between and among PTEs who would have greater incentives to genuinely compete with each other, and to therefore provide the best value for the consumers' money. It will likewise encourage technological innovation, stimulate demand for telecommunications and boost economic growth - creating a win-win situation for consumers and PTEs alike. However, the ability of subscribers to change or switch service providers without losing their mobile numbers becomes a right that is illusory if they have to choose between a duopoly that does not provide genuinely differentiated options.

4. **Draft legislation that is responsive to the legal and policy challenges posed by convergence.** Different rules apply to players based on the technologies they use to provide products and services - *i.e.*, broadcast, telecommunications, internet and other platforms. These existing laws are no longer appropriate and do not foster free and fair competition. The legal and policy challenges brought about by this new "converged reality" requires a single legal framework that achieves a balance between creating the right incentives for investment and innovation on the one hand, and enforcing necessary rules and arrangements to promote competition and universal access to information and communications technology, on the other. This will create an orderly transition from the existing arrangements of traditional communications industry structures to a more complex and globalized convergence environment.

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

2012 JUN 25

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 213

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO GENERATE EVIDENTIARY DATA TO ESTABLISH THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS UPON THE CONSUMER IN PARTICULAR, AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY IN GENERAL, OF THE PRESENT MODEL OF OPERATION AND REGULATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, TO THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING POLICY TO STRENGTHEN KEY ECONOMIC REFORMS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE COUNTRY'S MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND LONG-TERM VISION AND PROTECTIVE OF THE INTERESTS OF CONSUMERS IN A ROBUST ECONOMY THAT IS FOSTERED BY FREE COMPETITION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution, in recognition of the primary role of the private sector as engine of economic growth, guarantees the right of individuals and private groups, including corporations, to own, establish and operate economic enterprises;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution declares that the use of property bears a social function and that the State has the duty to regulate the acquisition, ownership, use and disposition of property, including the

regulation or prohibition of monopolies and combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition when the public interest so requires;

WHEREAS, pursuant to these state policies, liberalization reforms in the country's telecommunications industry have led to the granting of franchises to new players from the private sector to expand, improve and innovate the telecommunications industry, subject to the government's regulatory framework and competition-related statutes;

WHEREAS, the telecommunications sector is regulated by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) which exercises jurisdiction over the supervision, adjudication and control over all telecommunications services in the country;

WHEREAS, the NTC has crafted a mission to "proactively and continually create a responsive regulatory environment for a viable, affordable, reliable and accessible telecommunications and information infrastructure and services to ensure the welfare and protection of our people;"¹

WHEREAS, despite efforts at making the telecommunications industry an open, competitive and dynamic sector of the Philippine economy, the Philippines has been ranked to have the second slowest average download speed among 22 Asian countries,² and yet has some of the most expensive internet connections in the world;³

WHEREAS, it will promote the paramount welfare of the consumer in particular, and benefit the national economy in general, to conduct an inquiry to determine if the present model of operation and regulation of the

¹ NTC's Quality Management System, 2016.

² Based on a study on consumer internet speeds by an internet matrix provider, Ookla, as of May 2015. <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/489762/scitech/technology/list-philippines-ranks-21st-of-22-asian-countries-in-internet-download-speed>

³ <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/489762/scitech/technology/list-philippines-ranks-21st-of-22-asian-countries-in-internet-download-speed>

telecommunications industry provides the consumer genuine options, quality service, innovative activities and lower prices – factors which make the telecommunications industry a viable sector of the economy;

WHEREAS, a similar inquiry into the recent joint acquisition by two telecommunications companies of a 700-megahertz spectrum will determine if such purchase will have an economic effect on the consumers in terms of prices, options and quality of mobile services, as well as the possibility of reducing the opportunity for a third player into the telecommunications industry;

WHEREAS, this inquiry will aid in enabling the telecommunications sector in the midst of a rapidly evolving technological ecosystem, through the formulation of policies that will strengthen the present regulatory framework – consistent with good governance as an overarching theme under the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016;

WHEREAS, an empowered telecommunications sector will be an engine for attracting investments and creating jobs which are essential to attaining inclusive growth and improving the quality of life that represents the long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country under the country's collective long-term vision under AmBisyon Natin 2040;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to direct the appropriate senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to generate evidentiary data to establish the economic effects upon the consumer in particular, and the national economy in general, of the present model of operation and regulation of the telecommunications industry, to the end in view of recommending policy to strengthen key economic reforms that are consistent with the country's medium-term development plan and long-term

vision and protective of the interests of consumers in a robust economy that is fostered by free competition and inclusive growth.

Adopted,



WIN GATCHALIAN