

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

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SENATE **197**
P.S. Res. No. _____

RECEIVED BY: _____

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE EMERGENCE OF VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL, TO RESOLVE REGULATORY UNCERTAINTY THAT CONTINUES TO IMPEDE ITS FULL DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Section 24 mandates that the State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building and pursuant to this, it is the fundamental objective of government to develop and maintain a viable, efficient, reliable and universal telecommunication infrastructure using the best available and affordable technologies, as a vital tool to nation building and development, as embodied in Republic Act No. 7925, Section 4, paragraph a or the Public Telecommunications Act;

WHEREAS, there exists a widespread recognition and acceptance for Voice Over Internet Protocol as a viable, cost-effective technology that could serve as an alternative to the prevailing system of circuit switched phone services;

WHEREAS, based on a global research by industry consultants Frost and Sullivan, about 75% of global voice traffic would be done through VOIP by year 2007 and by then, sales of VOIP equipment would hit US \$ 2.7 billion, with Southeast Asia alone achieving US \$ 1.2 billion during the same period, with a compounded annual growth rate;

WHEREAS, voice over internet protocol (VOIP) refers to all types of voice communication using Internet protocol technology, instead of traditional circuit switched technology offered by public switched telephone network, through the use of packet technologies, where spoken words are encoded into digitized packets or data segments and transported over data network connections or packet switched connections;

WHEREAS, at present, there is a legal question whether VOIPS is telecommunications service, which under our laws, only public telecommunication entities, to the exclusion of ISPs, are authorized to offer, or value-added service, which means that ISPs and other non-PTEs are restricted to offer VOIP as a separate and distinct service to the public for compensation;

WHEREAS, because of the growing popularity and the obvious potential of VOIP to make voice communication highly reliable and more efficient at a lower cost, especially for our business sector and overseas Filipino workers, there is a need to review government policies on voice communication and resolve all uncertainties that may affect its implementation;

WHEREAS, without this policy review, a climate of regulatory uncertainty continues to impede the full development and utilization of VOIP as a viable alternative to traditional telecommunication services;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Service to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the emergence of Voice Over Internet Protocol, and resolve regulatory uncertainty that continues to impede its full development and utilization as an alternative to traditional telecommunication services;


MAR Roxas
Senator