


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

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SENATE  
PS Res. No. **319**

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Introduced by Senator Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano

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**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, AND PUBLIC SERVICES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL DONATION TRANSFER MECHANISM, WHICH INSTITUTIONALIZES A PERMANENT SYSTEM OF ENABLING FILIPINOS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DURING DISASTERS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DONATIONS AND MONEY TRANSFERS THROUGH SHORT MESSAGING SERVICE (SMS), OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS VALUE-ADDED SERVICES, NOW OR HEREINAFTER MADE AVAILABLE, AND OTHER AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES**

**WHEREAS**, Section 24 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that, “the State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building”;

**WHEREAS**, Section 10 of Article XVI of the 1987 Philippine Constitution further declares that “the State shall provide the policy environment for the full development of Filipino capability and the emergence of communication structures suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation”;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7925, otherwise known as the *Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines*, recognizes that telecommunications is essential to the economic development, integrity and security of the Philippines, and declares it a 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;

**WHEREAS**, under Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the *Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010*, it shall be the policy of the State to engage the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs), the private

sector, and volunteers in the government's disaster risk reduction programs towards complementation of resources and effective delivery of services to the citizenry;

**WHEREAS**, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is the principal government agency tasked with regulating all public telecommunications entities, facilitating access to a telecommunications network and infrastructure geared towards the needs of individual and business users, and ensuring the quality, safety, reliability, security, compatibility and inter-operability of telecommunications facilities and services in conformity with international standards and specifications;

**WHEREAS**, the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) is the government agency mandated to exercise regulatory oversight over electronic money service providers;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is prone to/at high risk of disasters, and has been affected by several major disasters, natural or man-made, this year;

**WHEREAS**, because of the large amount of text messages sent by Filipinos using the short messaging service (SMS) platform, the Philippines has earned the distinction of being the "texting capital of the world";

**WHEREAS**, the NTC and the BSP have already made possible the use of mobile money to collect and facilitate the transfer of donations to our countrymen who have been devastated by disasters or are otherwise in need of financial help;

**WHEREAS**, Globe Telecom, Inc., and Smart Communications, Inc., the proponents of G-Cash and Smart Money, respectively, have been able to assist institutions such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Philippine National Red Cross and *Bantay Bata*, in collecting and transferring donations from their subscribers to victims of disasters and other intended beneficiaries;

**WHEREAS**, during the recent disasters, such as the floods brought by Typhoon "SANTI" in Luzon, the destruction caused by the Magnitude 7.2 Carmen, Bohol Earthquake in the Visayas, and the displacement caused by the Zamboanga Siege in the Western Mindanao region, the Philippines has seen an outpour of emotional support from Filipinos everywhere. Filipinos here and abroad have also expressed their willingness to send donations to help the victims of these disasters;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to strengthen and institutionalize the system of mobile money donations in order to further strengthen our exemplary spirit of *bayaniban*, and to enable the ordinary Filipino to use his/her mobile phone to send charitable donations to fellow Filipinos, especially in times of need;

**WHEREAS**, the availability of technology helps further foster the Filipino's inherent trait of charity and giving by establishing the ease and convenience of "*e-bayaniban*;"

**WHEREAS**, there is also a need to ensure that this system of making micro-donations continues to be convenient, reliable, and available at all times to all willing donors, whether based here or abroad, regardless of the size of operations and/or donations, without causing undue burden to the service providers;

**WHEREAS**, the NTC and the BSP as regulators of mobile money service providers are in the best position to ensure that the system of sending micro-donations via text messages is institutionalized and that the necessary framework, regulations and incentives to promote the use of mobile money for charitable purposes are put in place;

**RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, that the Senate direct the Committees on National Defense and Security, and Public Services, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the establishment of a national donation transfer mechanism, which institutionalizes a permanent system of providing financial assistance during disasters, including, but not limited to, donations and money transfers through short messaging service (SMS) and other telecommunications value-added services, now or hereinafter made available, and other available technologies.

Adopted,



**ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**  
Senator