
Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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RESOLUTION
STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT) TO DIRECT THE NATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) TO IMMEDIATELY REDUCE THE
COST AND ESTABLISH A STRICT PRICE CEILING FOR TEXT MESSAGING
SERVICES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Short Message Service (SMS) system can be described as a means to send messages containing no more than a predetermined number of characters and regardless of the technical specifications and nuances of the messaging protocols, messages are small – especially relative to more data-intensive internet-based communications;

WHEREAS, each message within the SMS system is sent to a short service message center (SMSC) that attempts to forward the message to the intended recipient following predefined protocols (i.e. attempt to send repeatedly or “forward and forget”) which requires the management of a centralized server, and the overhead associated with an SMSC would be expected to be far less than a real-time telecommunications service since it is fundamentally a forwarding system;

WHEREAS, another key feature of the SMS system, within the modern telecommunications infrastructure, is that it is a costless form of messaging considering that if a handset is within range of a cellular communications tower (and provided that the handset is presently subscribed to the network and has access to the services of the tower), there exists a wireless “handshake” between the handset and the tower (the handset and the tower communicate constantly even if there is no actual activity emanating from the handset or there is no traffic heading into the handset) and through this persistent communication or “handshake” between the tower and the handset, text messages are sent with text messages riding piggyback on the persistent connection between a handset and a tower – at no extra cost;

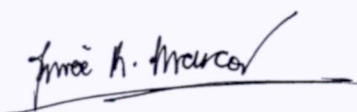
WHEREAS, the Department of Information and Communication and Technology (DICT), under R.A.10844, exercises administrative supervision over the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), which has jurisdiction over the supervision, adjudication and control over all telecommunications services throughout the country and is empowered to adopt and promote guidelines, rules and regulations relative to the establishment and operation of telecommunications facilities and services nationwide;

WHEREAS, the DICT has the power to instruct and order the NTC, to immediately reduce the cost of text messaging services and to establish a price ceiling therefor, as it has done in the past relative to the reduction in rates of interconnection services;

WHEREAS, the reduction in cost of text messaging services and the establishment of a strict price ceiling for such services will immensely benefit the greater number of our people especially those with limited incomes, and those relying on text messaging for their small-scale entrepreneurial activities, as well as ensure a wider latitude of freedom of communication and information among the greater number of our population;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to strongly urge and demand that the DICT direct the NTC to immediately reduce the cost of text messaging services to not more than PhP 0.01 or one centavo per text message and establish a strict price ceiling for such services.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS