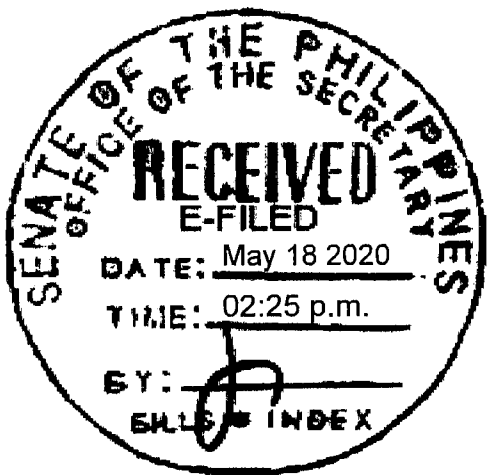


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 409

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO DETERMINE THE BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO UTILIZE INNOVATIVE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND ACCELERATE THE BUILD-UP OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE TOWARDS IMPROVING GOVERNANCE, SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROMPT DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

1 WHEREAS, the widespread Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has resulted in
2 unprecedented disruption in our lives as well as the global economy, where many
3 countries, including ours, have been adversely affected through interrupted supply
4 chains, skyrocketing unemployment rates, and embattled public healthcare
5 systems—not to mention, significant loss of life.

6 WHEREAS, it is vital for the government to ensure continuity of services and
7 operations, provide accurate, useful and up-to-date information to its people, and
8 craft strategies to minimize the disruption in the delivery of services and develop
9 contingent sources of comparable

10 WHEREAS, according to the analysis of S&P Global, an international company
11 engaged in financial information and analytics, the top five (5) industries most
12 impacted by COVID-19 were businesses engaged in airlines; casino & gaming;
13 leisure facilities; auto parts & equipment; and oil and gas drilling due to travel
14 restrictions and lockdown policies imposed by many governments.

15 WHEREAS, in the Philippines, according to the April 2020 survey jointly
16 conducted by the Department of Finance (DOF) and National Economic and
17 Development Authority (NEDA), the top five (5) hardest hit sectors per revenue loss,

1 amounting to more than 78% of their sales, were arts, entertainment, and
2 recreation; tourism, repair of other items; education and construction.

3 WHEREAS, the DOF-NEDA Survey also showed that more than 900,000
4 employees engaged in construction, education, repair of motor vehicles and
5 motorcycle, tourism and finance industries have lost their jobs because of the
6 government imposition of lockdown to avoid the spread of deadly virus.

7 WHEREAS, a Policy Brief prepared by the UN – Department of Economic and
8 Social Affairs concluded that this pandemic is forcing the governments and societies
9 to navigate towards digital technologies and channels to respond to the crisis in the
10 short-term, resolve socio-economic repercussions in the mid-term and reinvent
11 existing policies in the long term;

12 WHEREAS, out of 193 United Nations Members States, 167 countries,
13 including the Philippines, took advantage of technology-based platforms by including
14 information and guidance about COVID-19 in their national portals to provide real
15 time information to its people.

16 WHEREAS, countries like China, Italy and Singapore have established
17 technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) for medical diagnostics, and mobile
18 applications for data collection, symptoms checking and contact tracing—all of which
19 offer efficient and effective ways to cope with the speed, scope and impact of the
20 COVID-19 pandemic.

21 WHEREAS, Philippine tech agencies and organizations have developed and
22 are continuously developing mobile applications and systems such as StaySafe.ph,
23 FightCovid.app, ENDCov, EDDIE, SANIT and RapidPassPH to aid the government
24 despite the Philippines ranking 55th out of 63 economies—12th among 14 in Asia-
25 Pacific—in terms of digital competitiveness according to the 2019 IMD World Digital
26 Competitiveness Ranking report;

27 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis has emphasized the need for the digitalization
28 of government services in many areas such as supply chain management and
29 optimization, including the functions and services to help the fight against COVID-
30 19;

31 WHEREAS, a study conducted by McKinsey articulates the need to transform
32 the traditional government into a digital government that could address the

1 increasingly complex demands of the people. Such transformation is achieved by
2 digitizing services, processes, decisions and data-sharing in the government;
3 adopting AI-powered technology, robots, drones, 3D printing and mobile
4 applications that improve access of the people to healthcare, transportation, trade,
5 government and financial services as well as education; promoting digital literacy
6 and skills that often lead to employment; and building the necessary infrastructure
7 that would support the nation's full digital development;

8 WHEREAS, on 11 May 2020, the NEDA has realized and stressed need for the
9 country to transition to a digital economy given the limits to mobility imposed by the
10 current health crisis;

11 WHEREAS, to pave the way for future growth in the digital economy, the
12 country's economic managers recommended re-prioritizing the 2021 and 2022
13 budget and Build, Build, Build projects to start investing in digital infrastructure to
14 build a healthy, innovative and resilient digital economy;

15 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the
16 Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Finance to conduct an
17 inquiry, in aid of legislation, to determine the budgetary requirements of the
18 government in its pursuit to embrace digital technologies and accelerate the build-up
19 of the necessary infrastructure throughout the country to significantly improve
20 governance, socioeconomic development and prompt delivery of services to the
21 Filipino people.

Adopted,



SONNY ANGARA