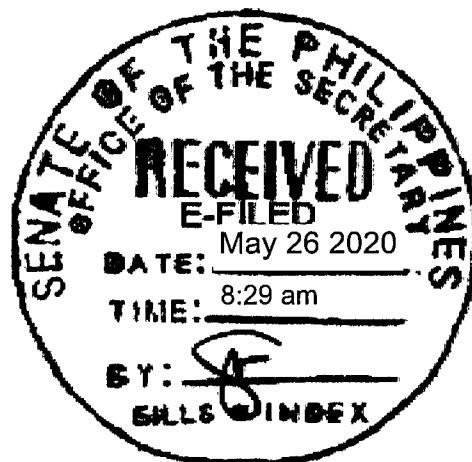


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 414



Introduced by Senator MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF COUNTRY'S INTERNET CONNECTIVITY, SPEED, BANDWIDTH CAPACITY AND OTHER RELEVANT PARAMETERS CONSIDERING THE INCREASE OF WORK-FROM-HOME ARRANGEMENTS, ONLINE CLASSES AND LEARNING SYSTEMS, AND THE SHIFT OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES TO DIGITAL PLATFORMS IN LIGHT OF THE "NEW NORMAL" CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic has caused a major shift in our way of living – a shift that has forced us to rely heavily on the internet for performing our jobs or occupation, shopping and buying daily needs, attending classes and other learning activities, banking, payment and other financial transactions, etc.;

WHEREAS, to be able to perform all these activities effectively and efficiently, a stable internet connectivity and decent speed is required. Thus, a reliable internet is the lifeblood of this shift to the "new normal" necessitated by the current pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has not fared well, historically, in terms of internet speed as compared to other countries. Based on the April 2020 Speedtest Global Index, the Philippines is 121st out of 139 countries in terms of mobile internet speed¹. While on the aspect of fixed broadband connection speed, we are placed at 110 out of 174 countries². The rank of the Philippines has slipped down by 6 and 7 places in mobile internet and fixed broadband, respectively³;

WHEREAS, a possible cause of this dismal internet speed ranking is the lack of adequate infrastructure to boost up connectivity. Based on the 2019 data compiled by Tower Xchange, there are only at least 17,850 cell sites in our country, in comparison to the over 90,000 cell sites of Vietnam⁴;

WHEREAS, with our Senate sessions, hearings and meetings adopting to a hybrid virtual mode, there have been moments when we have experienced this irregular and erratic internet connection;

WHEREAS, it is therefore imperative that the actual state of internet connectivity in the Philippines should be determined in order to properly re-calibrate our laws and policies in response to the possible skyrocketing of demand and number of users in the coming months;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of country's internet connectivity, speed, bandwidth capacity and other relevant parameters considering the increase of work-from-home arrangements, online classes and learning systems, and the shift of

¹ <https://www.speedtest.net/global-index>

² Id.

³ Id.

⁴ <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/187552/globe-urges-igus-to-rethink-permitting-to-improve-connectivity>

economic activities to digital platforms in light of the "new normal" caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID