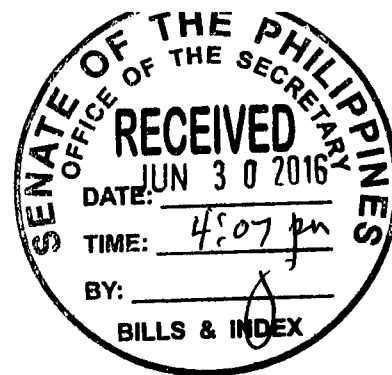


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 4

Introduced by Senator Richard "Dick" J. Gordon

**RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE  
COMPETITION IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

WHEREAS, promoting competition in telecommunications will have the largest gains for the Philippines in terms of competition, capital, technology, and improved governance;

WHEREAS, telecommunications and its value-added services, including the internet, are increasingly changing the way people live through connectivity;

WHEREAS, the Philippines ranked 21<sup>st</sup> out of 22 countries in Asia (ahead only of Afghanistan) in terms of average internet speed at 3.64 megabytes per second in the 2015 household download index by internet metrics provider Ookla;

WHEREAS, despite being particularly slow, internet in the Philippines is also extremely expensive at around US\$18 per mbps as against a global average of around US\$5 per mbps as measured by Ookla;

WHEREAS, improving connectivity and greatly reducing time and distance in carrying out tasks related to education, health, and livelihood can vastly improve quality of life and promote inclusive growth and economic development;

WHEREAS, barriers to entry, anti-competitive practices, inadequate infrastructure, weak and ineffective regulation, prohibitive bureaucratic requirements in infrastructure build-out, and the lack of interconnection have been identified as the major problems in an independent research on Philippine Broadband: A Policy Brief by Mary Grace Mirandilla-Santos;

WHEREAS, the Foundation for Economic Freedom called Congress to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation to liberalize key sectors in the economy and lift the nationality restrictions on foreign investments by amending the economic provisions of the Constitution, the Public Service Act, and sector-specific laws such as Republic Act No. 7925 or the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate, as it is hereby resolved,* to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation to promote competition in telecommunications and adopt the necessary reforms in laws and policies on this matter.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Gordon".

**RICHARD "DICK" J. GORDON**