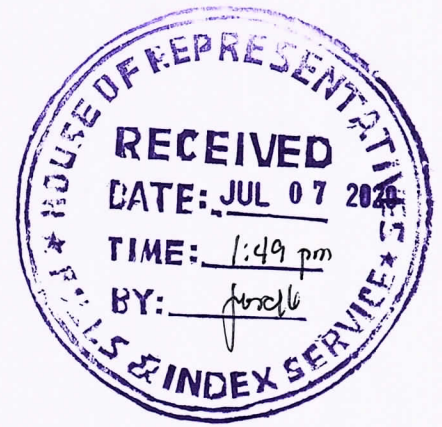


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7067



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Coordination in government agencies and local government units is critical before, during, and after any emergency situation. This is often overlooked but greatly affects emergency management. Coordination ensures that the government's actions are in harmony and there are no problems left unaddressed. To achieve this, there should be ready and accessible lines of communication in levels of government all the time.

A national emergency communication system is a necessary mechanism to facilitate coordination within the government. Information sharing and dissemination becomes easier. This in turn hastens the conduct of preparation, response and recovery efforts and delivery of public services to the affected population. This is crucial especially during emergency situations where time is of the essence and a matter of life and death. Overall, having an emergency communication system increases efficiency and effectiveness in the government's response.

This bill seeks to establish the National Emergency Communication System. It shall be comprised of a national and regional network that would support voice, video and data communication system between and among national government agencies and

local government units. This proposed measure also mandates every local government unit to set up command and operation centers. Further, this bill ensures the 24/7 operation of command, control and communication centers with dedicated personnel and facility.

In view of the foregoing, urgent approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

Representative

Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

1 Sec. 3. *The National Emergency Communication System.*— There is hereby
2 established a National Emergency Communication System (NECS). The NECS shall
3 have national and regional communication networks which shall be inter-connected
4 to support voice, video and data communication system between and among
5 national government agencies and local government units services that includes, but
6 not limited to, the following:

- 7
8 (a) Unified Communication System (UCS);
9 (b) Cloud-Serviced Situation Awareness (S/A) Tools; and
10 (c) Other ICT integration deemed necessary.

11
12 Sec. 4. *National Communication Network.*— There is hereby created a National
13 Communication Network (NCN) comprised of national government agencies (NGAs)
14 and specified command and operation centers, provided herein:

- 15
16 (a) Presidential Situation Room of the Office of the President;
17 (b) Office of Civil Defense of the Department of National Defense;
18 (c) Command Center of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
19 (d) Command Center of the Philippine National Police;
20 (e) Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center of the
21 Department of Social Welfare and Development;
22 (f) Command Center of the Department of Health;
23 (g) Command Center of the Department of Education;
24 (h) Command Operations Center of the Bureau of Fire Protection;
25 (i) Command Center of the Philippine Coast Guard;
26 (j) Command Center of the Department of Agriculture;
27 (k) Regional Command, Control and Communication Centers of the
28 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
29 (l) Operation centers of the regional offices of the NGAs provided in this
30 Section; and
31 (m) Other NGAs deemed necessary for the implementation of this Act.

1 Sec. 5. *Regional Communication Network.* – Every local government unit
2 (LGU) is hereby mandated to create their respective command and operation centers
3 that shall comprise the Regional Communication Network (RCN), provided herein:

- 4
5 (a) Command Centers of Provincial Governments;
6 (b) Command Centers of City Governments;
7 (c) Command Centers of Municipal Governments; and
8 (d) Operation Centers of Barangays.

9
10 Sec. 6. *Command, Control and Communication Centers and Facility.*– There is
11 hereby established Command, Control and Communication Centers (C3s) with
12 building, equipment and facility, staffs and operating system accordingly activated at
13 the following levels:

- 14
15 (a) National Command, Control and Communication Center (NC3) – shall be
16 an attached agency of the DILG;
17 (b) Regional Command, Control and Communication Center (RC3) – shall be
18 directly under the Office of the DILG Regional Director;
19 (c) Provincial Command, Control and Communication Center (PC3) – shall be
20 under the Office of the Governor;
21 (d) City/Municipal Command, Control and Communication Center (C/MC3) –
22 shall be under the Office of the Mayor; and
23 (e) Barangay Operation Center (OpCen) – shall be under the Office of the
24 Barangay Chairman.

25
26 Sec. 7. *Communication Interoperability Board.*– There is hereby created
27 National and Local Communication Interoperability Board (CIB). The National CIB
28 (NCIB) shall be under the Office of the President, while the Local CIB (LCIB) shall be
29 under the respective Regional DILG offices and its counterparts. The CIB shall have
30 the following powers and functions:

- 1 (a) Serve as the governing body which shall supervise and administer the
2 NECS and its initiatives;
- 3 (b) Approve and publish communication protocols and standard operating
4 procedures in managing the NC3, RC3s, PC3s, C/MC3s and Barangay
5 OpCens;
- 6 (c) Set technical standards and specifications of communication equipment,
7 facilities, UCS and S/A operating systems of C3s;
- 8 (d) Set technical standards and best practices on data harvesting/gathering,
9 processing, storage/archive, sharing, collaboration and reporting system;
- 10 (e) Evaluate, validate and accredit yearly mission readiness of C3s for awards
11 and recognition by government awarding bodies and local/international
12 awarding institutions;
- 13 (f) Design, develop and formulate training modules/manuals for skills and
14 competencies for NC3, RC3s, PC3s, C/MC3s and Barangay OpCens;
- 15 (g) Conduct seminars, workshops, individual and/organizational trainings and
16 summits on NECs; and
- 17 (h) Exercise all other powers and functions which may be necessary to carry
18 out the provisions of this Act.

19
20 *Sec. 8. Composition of the National Communication Interoperability Board.–*

21 The NCIB shall be composed of Director-level representatives from the following
22 NGAs:

- 23
- 24 (a) Office of the President – Chairperson;
- 25 (b) Department of National Defense – Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 26 (c) Department of Interior and Local Government – Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 27 (d) Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- 28 (e) Philippine National Police;
- 29 (f) Bureau of Fire Protection;
- 30 (g) Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- 31 (h) Department of Health;
- 32 (i) Department of Education;

- (j) Department of Public Works and Highways;
- (k) Department of Transportation;
- (l) Department of Science and Technology;
- (m) Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
- (n) Department of Agriculture;
- (o) Representatives from non-governmental and civil society organizations, emergency response volunteer groups, amateur radio clubs, ICT professional organizations, and academe; and
- (p) Secretariat
 - (i) DICT – RGECS and Staffs
 - (ii) NC3 – Director for Administration/Training and Staffs.

Sec. 9. Staffing Pattern.— The NC3, RC3s and local C3s shall have permanent personnel for 24/7 operations. The C3s must be headed by an Administrator who shall be assisted by three (3) staff members each responsible for (1) Administration/Training, (2) Operations and Protocol, and (3) ICT Support.

The budgetary source, compensation and hiring procedures for the C3s shall conform to the rules and policies of the Civil Service Commission and the DBM, as stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

Sec. 10. Equipment and Facility Standards of the Command and Operation Centers.— The equipment and facilities of the command and operation centers must comply with the specifications and standards in accordance with its mission readiness level as rated by the CIB.

Sec. 11. Support to National Government Agencies and Local Government Units.— The DICT shall provide network infrastructure support and technical assistance to NGAs and LGUs to ensure that all command and operation centers in the NCN and RCN have the appropriate equipment, facilities, and resources.

1 Sec. 12. *Licenses and Permits from the National Telecommunications*
2 *Commission.*— The National Telecommunications Commission is directed to grant, at
3 no cost to the government, the licenses and permits necessary for the establishment
4 of the NECS including, but not limited to, the following equipment:

- 5
6 (a) Any-To-Any/Cross-Platform Communication Integrator;
7 (b) Long-Haul HF Communications; and
8 (c) Land Mobile Radio.

9
10 Sec. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*— Within sixty (60) days, the
11 DICT, in coordination with the concerned NGAs and LGUs, shall promulgate the rules
12 and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

13
14 Sec. 14. *Appropriations.*— As lead agency to carry out the provisions of this
15 Act, the NC3 shall be allotted a budget of One Billion Pesos (Php 1,000,000,000.00)
16 of revolving fund starting from the effectivity of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as
17 may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual
18 General Appropriations Act.

19
20 The establishment and activation of NECS at the local C3s shall be funded
21 accordingly through the annual budget allocations of their respective LGUs.

22
23 Sec. 15. *Separability Clause.*— If any portion or provisions of this Act is
24 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected
25 thereby shall remain in force and effect.

26
27 Sec. 16. *Repealing Clause.*— Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
28 executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the
29 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

30
31 Sec. 17. *Effectivity.*— This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
32 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,