Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9252**

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Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

COVID-19 ushered in a lot of changes in the country. With businesses ceasing operations and people having to stay in their homes, delivery services has gotten much more prominent. As we move towards the new normal, we expect delivery services to remain relevant—thus, the pressing need to modernize the Philippine postal corporation in order to democratize access to such an important public utility.

Currently, postal services in the Philippines are heavily dominated by private couriers as they tend to offer faster shipping times. In this regard, this measure seeks to empower PhilPost to provide services which are at par with those provided by private couriers. This measure also provides for the adoption of information and communications technology to enhance PhilPost's services and to support a cost-effective and efficient post office operations. Ultimately, the goal here is to enable PhilPost to be a competitive provider of mail delivery services with an extensive coverage across the country.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "PhilPost Modernization Post."

SECTION 2. Policy and Objectives. – The delivery of letters and other mail matters is a basic and strategic public utility which the State shall provide, directly or indirectly through, and/or with sorting, authorized entities or persons. Accordingly, the collection, sorting, storage, transporting, and delivery thereof shall be done with utmost dispatch in the most economical, reliable and secure manner that available technology will permit.

The State shall pursue the following objectives of a postal system:

a) to enable the economical and speedy transfer of mail and other postal matters, from sender to addressee, with full recognition of their privacy or confidentiality;
b) to promote international interchange, cooperation and understanding, through the unhampered flow or exchange of postal matters between nations;
c) to cause or effect a wide range of postal services to cater to different users and changing needs, including but not limited to, philately transfer of monies and valuables, and the like;
d) to ensure that sufficient revenues are generated by and within the industry to finance the overall cost of providing the varied range of postal delivery an messengerial services as well the expansion and continuous upgrading of service standards by the same.

SECTION 3. Application of Information and Communications Technology. – In accordance with international standards, PhilPost shall utilize information and communications technology to enhance its services and to support a cost-effective and efficient post office operations. PhilPost shall communicate, exchange and process information in the national and regional level for the efficient and prompt delivery of services in a technology-neutral and secured infrastructure for business, industries, and government. It shall keep an updated database of the entire population of the country.

The security of data and communication of and processed by PhilPost shall be in a manner that is consistent with Republic Act 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, other laws, rules and regulations, and applicable local and internationally accepted standards on information security.

SECTION 4. Prioritization. – Delivery of mails by PhilPost shall be based on priorities such as vital communications and parcels containing medicines, items containing goods/perishable items, items from SSS, GSIS and other public and private institutions containing pensions, checks/loans, etc. It shall adopt technology-driven business solutions and offer on-demand courier services with real-time tracking features.

SECTION 5. Modification to Reduce Health Risks. - The current mail delivery procedures of PhilPost shall be modified to reduce health risks and conform to social distancing guidelines as may, from time to time, be issued by the appropriate government agencies. Whenever practicable, the requirement for physical signature shall be waived and customers shall be asked to stand back or close screen doors when mail is being delivered to residences and businesses.

SECTION 6. Main Delivery Service Provider of the Government. – Subject to the franking privileges authorized by law and under such arrangements and conditions as may obviate abuse or unauthorized use thereof, Phil Post shall serve as the main delivery service provider of government offices and agencies.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act and in a manner not inconsistent with the Section immediately preceding, the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be formulated by other appropriate government offices or agencies in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology and all stakeholders.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. – In addition to the funds mentioned under Republic Act 7354, there is hereby appropriated from the general funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of Five Hundred Million Pesos (Php 500,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, to cover the salaries, wages, purchase of computers, motor vehicles, supplies, equipment, and other sundry expenses of PhilPost.

The amount appropriated herein shall be carried in the General Appropriations Acts, chargeable to the Department of Information and Communication Technology, for succeeding fiscal years.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, regulations, decrees, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication the Official Gazette or in the two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,