

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3373**



Introduced by Representative ZALDY “JECOY” S. VILLA

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10973 BY FURTHER GRANTING THE
DIRECTOR OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ANTI CYBERCRIME
GROUP THE AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER OATH AND TO ISSUE
SUBPOENA AND SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As our lives increasingly move online, so do crimes. From online scams and cyberbullying to hacking and identity theft, cybercrime continues to evolve and affect the safety and security of ordinary Filipinos.

Republic Act No. 10973 gave certain officials of the Philippine National Police (PNP) the power to issue subpoenas and subpoena duces tecum, tools that help gather evidence and speed up investigations. However, with the growing complexity and volume of cybercrimes, there is a need to further strengthen the capacity of the PNP’s Anti Cybercrime Group.

This bill seeks to amend RA 10973 by granting the Director of the PNP Anti Cybercrime Group the authority to administer oaths and issue subpoenas. Doing so will give the Anti Cybercrime Group more direct and efficient tools to pursue cybercriminals, gather digital evidence, and hold offenders accountable without unnecessary delays.

At the heart of this measure is the goal of protecting the public in the digital space. By empowering the Anti Cybercrime Group with the legal means to act swiftly, we are helping ensure that justice keeps pace with technology, and that Filipinos are safer both offline and online.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


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

SECTION 1. Section 1-A of the Republic Act No. 10973 as amended, otherwise known as the “Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990”, shall read as follows:

“SEC. 26-A. Subpoena Powers – The Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Director and the Deputy Director for the Administration of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), referred to as the Criminal Investigation Unit in Section 35 (b) (4) of this Act, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE ANTI-CYBERCRIME GROUP, shall have the power to administer oath, and issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum in relation to its investigation: Provided, That such powers shall be exercised solely by the aforementioned officials and may not be further delegated to any other person or office.

“The subpoena shall state the nature and purpose of investigation, shall be directed to the person whose attendance is required, and in the case of subpoena duces tecum, it shall contain a reasonable description of the books, documents, or things demanded which may be relevant to the investigation.

“Failure to comply with subpoena and subpoena duces tecum shall authorize the filing of a case for indirect contempt under the Rules of Court with the Regional Trial Court.”

SECTION 2. Separability Clause. – The declaration of invalidity of any provision of this Act or part thereof shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All law, decree, ordinance, or administrative circular not consistent with any provision of this Act is hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved.