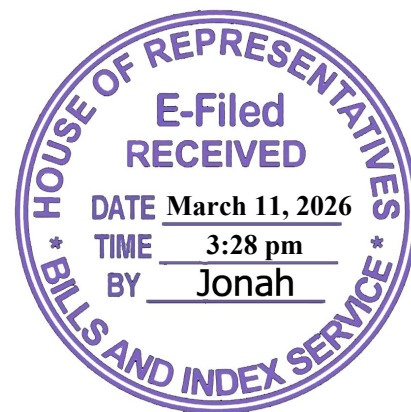


**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City**

**Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 8449



**Introduced by Honorable Representatives
DADAH KIRAM ISMULA (Akbayan Partylist)
JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO (Akbayan Partylist)
PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA (Akbayan Partylist)
KAKA BAG-AO (Dinagat Islands)**

**AN ACT MANDATING THE FULL DISCLOSURE OF GOVERNMENT
TRANSACTIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIGITAL BUDGET
PORTAL TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION IN THE PHILIPPINE BUDGET PROCESS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Transparency, accountability, and good governance are the most important pillars of any government, which enable it to fairly, judiciously, and efficiently fulfill its responsibility to deliver public services and goods. Embedding these qualities in the very institutions that govern the Filipino people fosters democracy and improves the quality of life for all Filipinos.

As one of the most significant and crucial pieces of legislation that the Congress of the Philippines passes, the annual National Budget is among the most essential instruments of governance. Despite this, its deliberation and appropriation continue to happen behind closed doors, with its presentation to the public often peppered with complex, highly technical language that hinders the ordinary Filipino from scrutinizing it.

This measure institutionalizes the use of blockchain technology across our financial, budget, and procurement frameworks, modernizing and enhancing the State's financial transparency and the accountability of public officials to the people they serve. The goal of this bill is not only to ensure that the National Budget is publicly available, but also to improve citizens' participation and engagement, and national awareness of the Government's fiscal policies and budget utilization.

Blockchain technology is a decentralized digital ledger system that records transactions across a network of computers in a secure, transparent, and tamper-

resistant manner. It is a powerful tool that has the potential to eradicate corrupt practices within our fiscal systems.

The Blockchain System promises a more democratic, inclusive, and accountable system of governance by granting the Filipino people with unprecedented access to the National Budget. By institutionalizing transparency through blockchain technology, the State affirms that public funds are a public trust—open to scrutiny, safeguarded against misuse, and managed with integrity. In doing so, the system strengthens democratic accountability and restores citizens' confidence in the stewardship of the national budget.

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



DADAH KIRAM ISMULA
Akbayan Representative



JOSE MANUEL TADEO
"CHEL" I. DIOKNO
Akbayan Representative



PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA
Akbayan Representative



KAKA BAG-AO
Dinagat Islands Representative

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the "**CADENA Act**".

2
3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to uphold transparency,
4 accountability, and good governance in the management and disbursement of public
5 funds. The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in public service, adopt effective
6 measures against graft and corruption, and institutionalize public disclosure through
7 open, verifiable, and citizen-accessible digital systems. To this end, the government
8 shall establish a digital platform that provides timely, accurate, tamper-resistance,
9 interoperable, and traceable publication of government budget transactions. The
10 system shall guarantee that all government appropriations, disbursements,
11 procurements, and expenditures are disclosed and made publicly accessible to citizens
12 and oversight institutions.

13
14 In pursuit of a forward-looking, resilient, and future-ready governance framework, the
15 State shall apply futures thinking and anticipatory governance in the design,
16 implementation, and continuous enhancement of digital budget disclosure systems.
17 This approach ensures adaptability to emerging technologies, long-term risk, evolving
18 public needs, and potential societal impacts.

19
20 **SEC. 3. *Definition of terms.*** – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms are
21 defined as follows:

- 1 (a) **Budget Process** refers to the entire cycle of planning, legislation, execution, and
2 accountability through which public funds are proposed, authorized, released,
3 disbursed, and reported;
4
- 5 (b) **Citizen Access and Disclosure of Expenditures for National Accountability**
6 **(CADENA)** refers to the digital budget portal established under this Act to serve
7 as the official and publicly accessible portable for all public budget data;
8
- 9 (c) **Cryptographic** refers to the use of mathematical methods or algorithms to secure
10 and verify digital data or transactions, ensuring their integrity and authenticity;
11
- 12 (d) **Data Embassy** refers to a secure server or storage facility located outside the
13 Philippines but placed under Philippine ownership, jurisdiction, and control, for data
14 backup and continuity of critical fiscal systems;
15
- 16 (e) **Data Integrity** refers to the accuracy, consistency, and reliability of data
17 throughout its life-cycle, ensuring the public fiscal information has not been altered
18 of tampered with after its creation;
19
- 20 (f) **Data Minimization** refers to the principle that only the data and information
21 necessary, relevant, and proportionate to the purpose of disclosure or processing
22 shall be collected, recorded, and published;
23
- 24 (g) **Data Sovereignty** refers to the principle that all public budget data under this
25 Act shall remain the property of the Filipino people, held in trust by the State, and
26 governed by Philippine laws on data protection, privacy, and national security;
27
- 28 (h) **Digital Budget Portal** refers to a digital platform that records, organizes, and
29 published government transactions and documents in an open-source,
30 interoperable, tamper-resistant, and structured digital format;
31
- 32 (i) **Digital Signature** refers to an electronic method of authentication using
33 encryption or cryptographic algorithms that validates the identity of the sender or
34 author of a digital record and ensures non-repudiation of published transactions;
35
- 36 (j) **Disclosure** refers to the process of recording, certifying, and publishing public
37 budget data under this Act in a manner that ensures accuracy, authenticity, time-
38 stamping, and public accessibility in structured digital formats, for the purpose of
39 promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance;
40
- 41 (k) **Distributed Ledger Technology** refers to a shared database architecture that
42 records transactions across multiple nodes or locations to ensure verifiability and
43 resistance to tampering;

- 1 (l) **Interoperability** refers to the capability of different systems, platforms, or
2 technologies to exchange, interpret, and use information in a coordinated and
3 secure manner, consistent with established standards;
4
- 5 (m) **Mirror Site** refers to an accredited independent copy or parallel instance of
6 the CADENA, maintained by non-government organizations, media institutions, or
7 universities to provide redundancy, tamper-resistant, and continuous public access
8 to official data;
9
- 10 (n) **Open Application Programming Interface (API)** refers to a publicly
11 documented software interface that allows authorized users, systems, or
12 developers to access, retrieve, or submit data from the CADENA under defined
13 security, privacy, and access controls;
14
- 15 (o) **Open-source** refers to software or technology whose source code is publicly
16 accessible, allowing anyone to inspect, use, modify, and distribute it;
17
- 18 (p) **Publicly Accessible** refers to the state or condition in which data, records, or
19 documents are made available to the general public through an online platform
20 without need for prior authorization, ensuring that any individual may freely view,
21 search download, verify, and analyze such information in a structured digital
22 format;
23
- 24 (q) **Public Budget Data** refers to all information, documents, datasets, and
25 transaction records generated or required to be disclosed under Section 5 of this
26 Act, covering all phases of the national budget cycle from preparation and
27 legislation to execution and accountability;
28
- 29 (r) **Record and Publish** refers to the process of uploading or encoding, certifying,
30 and making public budget data available through the official disclosure platform
31 prescribe under this Act, in accordance with the timeframes, formats, and
32 authentication standards provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations;
33
- 34 (s) **Redundancy** refers to the establishment of multiple, independent systems or data
35 copies to ensure data preservation, reliability, and continuity of public access in
36 case of system failure or disruption;
37
- 38 (t) **Responsible Agency and Accountable Officer** refers to the government entity
39 and designated official identified as responsible for the certification, recording, and
40 publication of specific categories of public budget data;
41

1 (u) **Structured Digital Format** refers to a machine-readable data format that
2 complies with open data standards, such as CSV, JSON, or XML and allows
3 automated processing, analysis, and interoperability among information systems;
4

5 (v) **Tamper-resistant** refers to the property of a record or system that makes any
6 unauthorized alteration, deletion, or manipulation of recorded data extremely
7 difficult through technological and operational safeguards, including, but not
8 limited to, cryptographic protections, secure key management, hardware security
9 modules, redundancy and access controls, such that any attempt at tampering
10 would be prohibitively costly, detectable, and would leave measurable forensic
11 evidence; and
12

13 (w) **Unified Accounts Code Structure (UACS)** refers to the government-wide
14 coding framework prescribed by the Department of Budget and Management
15 (DBM), in coordination with the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Commission
16 on Audit (COA), that provides a unified and consistent classification system for
17 budgeting, accounting, and auditing of government transactions. It serves as the
18 standard reference for identifying the source, purpose, and use of public funds
19 across all phases of the national budget cycle.
20

21 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all National Government departments,
22 bureaus, offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities, including government-owned
23 or controlled corporations (GOCCs), and their subsidiaries.
24

25 The Act shall likewise apply to all projects and programs funded through public-private
26 partnerships (PPPs) or foreign-assisted programs insofar as they utilize, disburse, or
27 account for public funds through national government agencies or mechanisms.
28

29 Local government units (LGUs) are not covered by this Act but are encouraged to
30 adopt similar mechanisms consistent with the principles and standards established
31 under this Act, to strengthen fiscal transparency, participatory governance, and public
32 accountability at the local level.
33

34 **SEC. 5. Disclosure of Public Budget Data.** – All National Government entities are
35 hereby mandated to record and publish in the CADENA the data and information found
36 in every document relating to the national government budget process to facilitate
37 public scrutiny and ensure transparency in budget planning and preparation, budget
38 legislation and authorization, budget execution and fund management, procurement
39 process and contract management, and revenue collection and generation. For this
40 purpose, the data from the following documents and such other documents as may
41 be determined by the National Budget Transparency and Accountability Council
42 (NBTAC) shall be disclosed and published in accordance with this Act:
43

Type of Document	Responsible Agency
<i>(a) Budget Preparation Documents</i>	
(1) Budget Call	DBM
(2) All versions of Budget Preparation Forms submitted by agencies through the Online Submission of Budget Proposal (OSBP) Portal	Concerned line agencies, consolidated by DBM
(3) National Expenditure Program (NEP)	DBM
(4) Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF)	DBM
(5) President's Budget Message	DBM/ Office of the President
<i>(b) Budget Legislation Documents</i>	
(1) General Appropriations Bill (GAB) versions	House of Representatives (HOR) and Senate of the Philippines (Senate)
(2) Committee Reports	HOR and Senate
(3) Individual, Committee, and Bicameral Amendments with Identified Proponents	HOR and Senate
(4) Bicameral Conference Committee Report	HOR and Senate
(5) President's Veto Message	DBM/Office of the President
(6) General Appropriations Act (GAA)	DBM
<i>(c) Budget Execution and Fund Release Documents</i>	
(1) Agency-level Budget Execution Documents	Concerned agencies
(2) National Budget Circular (NBC) with Agency Budget Matrix (ABM)	DBM
(3) Allotment Release Orders (SAROs)	DBM
(4) Notices of Cash Allocation (NCAs)	DBM
(5) Other Fund Release Documents (including Cash Disbursement Ceilings (COCs), Multi-Year Contractual Authority (MYCA), and other similar issuances)	DBM/ Bureau of Treasury (BTr)
(6) Fund Release Receipts	Concerned agencies
(7) Registry of Allotments, Obligations, and Disbursements (RAOD)	Concerned agencies
(8) Disbursement Vouchers	Concerned agencies/DBM
(9) Fund Utilization Reports	Concerned agencies/DBM
<i>(d) Infrastructure and Procurement-Related Documents</i>	
(1) Program of Works	Procuring entities
(2) Bill of Quantities	Procuring entities
(3) Detailed Unit Price Analysis	Procuring entities
(4) Bid Announcements and Invitation to Bid	Procuring entities

(5) Request for Expressions of Interest	Procuring entities
(6) Technical and Financial Evaluation	Procuring entities
(7) Abstract of Bids	Procuring entities
(8) Project eligibility documents, including beneficial ownership disclosures, certifications of good standing, permits and clearances	Procuring entities
(9) Notices of Award and Notices to Proceed	Procuring entities
(10) Contracts and Purchase Orders	Procuring entities
(11) Performance and Warranty Security Documents	Procuring entities
(12) Advanced Payment/Mobilization Fee Receipt	Procuring entities
(13) Milestone Billings and Progress Billings	Procuring entities
(14) Inspection and Acceptance Reports	Procuring entities
(15) Delivery Receipts	Procuring entities
(16) Disbursement Vouchers and Completion Certificates	Procuring entities
(17) Other related documents pursuant to Republic Act No. 12009 or the New Government Procurement Act	As prescribed in the IRR
<i>(e) Budget Accountability Documents</i>	
(1) Agency Performance Review Reports and Budget and Financial Accountability Forms (BFARs)	DBM/concerned agencies
(2) Agency Financial Statements	Concerned agencies/COA
(3) COA Annual Audit Reports	COA
(4) Audit Observation Memorandums	COA
(5) Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation (AAPSI)	Concerned agencies/COA
(6) Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, and Disbursements and Balances (SAAODB)	Concerned agencies
(7) All Civil Service Commission (CSC) – DBM – COA Circulars	Concerned agency CSC/DBM/COA
(8) Records of oversight hearings, performance audits, and corrective action reports	Congress/COA/Concerned agencies

The NBTAC may determine additional documents for which other public budget data should be disclosed under this Act, without prejudice to other disclosures necessary

1 to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in the budget
2 process.

3
4 Data and information required to be disclosed under this section, as derived from the
5 documents enumerated herein, shall hereafter be referred to as "Public Budget Data".
6 All Public Budget Data shall be digitally certified and presented in a structural digital
7 format, in accordance with the standards to be prescribed by the NBTAC, ensuring
8 that every allocation, transaction, or transfer is easily searchable, traceable, and
9 analyzable by the public.

10
11 For each type of listed document, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall
12 clearly identify the responsible agency or office, as well as the designated accountable
13 officer, for the disclosure of public budget data under this Act. For procurement-related
14 documents under subsection (d), the designated accountable officer shall be the Head
15 of the Procuring Entity (HoPE).

16
17 All required public budget data in the listed documents shall be disclosed by the
18 designated accountable officer within seven (7) working days from the date of
19 approval, official issuance, receipt of the concerned agency, completion, or generation
20 of the document, whichever is applicable. All corrections or updates shall be versioned
21 in a manner that retains previous entries to ensure data traceability, auditability, and
22 accountability.

23
24 Disclosures shall include linkage identifiers or references sufficient to trace each
25 appropriation, obligation, and disbursement to the corresponding final payee,
26 contractor, or beneficiary program, using the Unified Accounts Code Structure (UACS)
27 and other interoperable tagging standards.

28
29 Beyond document publication, agencies shall ensure that budget-cycle datasets are
30 interlinked and reconcilable, allowing citizens to trace the full flow of funds from
31 authorization to actual expenditure and results achieved.

32
33 The disclosure requirement under this Act shall not apply to specific data fields within
34 documents whose publication would compromise national defense or security, or
35 violate the Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act 2012, as determined by the
36 NBTAC in consultation with the National Privacy Commission (NPC) and other
37 appropriate agencies: Provided, That the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173, shall
38 not be invoked to restrict or delay the disclosure of public budget data, as public
39 expenditure, contract, and supplier information shall not be deemed personal data.

40
41 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish, restrict, or otherwise limit existing
42 transparency and disclosure obligations under other laws, rules, and regulations.

43
44 **SEC. 6. Data Quality Standards.** – The NBTAC shall determine data quality,
45 formatting, and metadata standards for the CADENA to ensure completeness,
46 consistency, searchability, and interoperability across agencies, enabling cross-
47 referencing through standard coding systems such as the UACS.

1 The IRR shall ensure that the CADENA aligns with the standards of existing
2 transparency systems of the DBM, COA, and other agencies toward a unified,
3 interoperable, and open public financial data framework.

4
5 **SEC. 7. *Establishment of the CADENA.*** – The CADENA shall serve as the official
6 and publicly accessible portal for all public budget data required under this Act.

7
8 The CADENA shall be the primary access point through which the public may freely
9 access, search, and download public budget data in open-source, interoperable,
10 tamper-resistant, and structured digital format. It shall provide features that promote
11 transparency, accountability, and citizen participation, subject to tiered-access
12 controls to protect personal data and national security information.

13
14 The CADENA shall be developed using ledger technology including, but not limited to,
15 blockchain, secure data integrity technology, or other technology that conforms with
16 the standards and features prescribed under Section 8 of this Act. The NBTAC shall,
17 at intervals of not more than three (3) years, review and recommend the adoption
18 of alternative or emerging technologies.

19
20 The CADENA shall interface with existing government systems including, but not
21 limited to, the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), Budget
22 and Treasury Management System (BTMS), Philippine Government Electronic
23 Procurement System (PhilGEPS), and other platforms through standardized
24 Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) or newer technologies. These systems shall
25 maintain parallel operation during transition periods as specified by the NBTAC.

26
27 **SEC. 8. *Core Features of the CADENA.*** – The CADENA shall be designated to
28 promote transparency and accountability in all phases of the national budget cycle. It
29 shall, at a minimum, have the following features:

- 30
31 (a) Data Integrity and Authenticity – All published records shall bear digital and non-
32 repudiable signatures, timestamps, and metadata ensuring verifiable origin and
33 traceability;
- 34 (b) Transparency and Accessibility – All budget records and reports shall be made
35 available through public dashboards and open APIs in structured digital formats
36 for real-time access, visualization, and reuse, subject to tiered access controls to
37 protect personal data and privileged information;
- 38 (c) Redundancy and Oversight – Independent mirror sites, hosted by qualified and
39 accredited institutions, including government agencies, the private sector, civil
40 society, and the academe, and other third-party audit mechanisms shall be
41 established to safeguard against data loss, tampering, and concentration of control
42 and strengthen mutual oversight and institutional accountability;
- 43 (d) Traceability Across the Budget Cycle – The system shall maintain a structured audit
44 trail linking each stage of the budget process from call and approval to release,
45 procurement, and liquidation, identifying the responsible committee or agency at

1 each decision point, while observing data minimization and purpose limitation
2 under applicable privacy laws. The CADENA shall display all budget records without
3 alteration and shall ensure that all documents, dashboards, public data sets, and
4 APIs reflect the complete national budget cycle;

5 (e) Programmability and Process Validation – The CADENA may employ rule-based or
6 automated validation tools to ensure compliance with budgetary laws, detect
7 irregularities, and flag inconsistencies for oversight review, without substituting or
8 interfering with lawful approval procedures;

9 (f) Security and Resilience – The system shall employ encryption, redundancy, access
10 controls, and disaster recovery protocols that comply with international
11 cybersecurity standards;

12 (g) Interoperability and Open Standards – The CADENA shall adopt open-source,
13 technology-neutral frameworks and ensure compatibility with existing and future
14 government information systems. It shall be designed for integration with other
15 fully secured national digital platforms to allow seamless data exchange,
16 interoperability, and unified public access. The CADENA shall likewise be accessible
17 to the general public through its own portal and/or other government portals to
18 promote ease of use, transparency, and citizen engagement;

19 (h) Auditability – The system shall maintain verifiable activity logs accessible to the
20 COA and other public auditors and civil society organizations duly authorized by
21 the NBTAC for post-factum review, without exposing personal or security-sensitive
22 information on public endpoints;

23 (i) Citizen Feedback and Participation – The CADENA shall include real-time channels
24 for citizens and civil society organizations to report, track, and receive
25 acknowledgment of verified discrepancies or irregularities in published data. Each
26 report shall be logged, traceable, and subject to timely resolution by the concerned
27 agency;

28 (j) Scalability and Performance – The system shall be designed to handle high
29 transaction volumes, ensure continuity of operations during peak usage, and
30 include forward-looking capacity planning sufficient to accommodate at least ten
31 (10) years of projected data growth and system demand; and

32 (k) Outcome-based Metrics – The system shall include performance dashboards linking
33 budget disbursements to outputs and outcomes, allowing public tracking of agency
34 performance and corrective actions.

35
36 **SEC. 9. *Data Sovereignty and Custodianship.*** – All fiscal data collected and
37 processed under this Act are property of the Filipino people, held in trust by the State.

38
39 The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall serve
40 as primary data custodian, responsible for ensuring lawful access, integrity and long-
41 term preservation of such data.
42

1 The exercise of data sovereignty shall be understood as the State's control and lawful
2 access over public data through secure and verifiable systems consistent with
3 Philippine jurisdiction and regulatory standards.

4
5 All hosting and data infrastructure utilized under this Act shall remain under the lawful
6 control, access, and regulatory supervision of the Philippine Government, in
7 accordance with the applicable data governance, cybersecurity, and privacy
8 regulations of DICT and the NPC: Provided, That the State, in coordination with the
9 country having jurisdiction over the data center infrastructure, may establish or
10 designate a Data Embassy during the pilot or initial implementation phases: Provided,
11 further, That full domestic hosting shall be achieved upon nationwide implementation.

12
13 The provision affirms that Philippine data sovereignty is a non-delegable national
14 function, and that any extraterritorial hosting shall be treated strictly as a contingency
15 measure in support, not in lieu of, local infrastructure self-sufficiency.

16
17 All third-party providers, developers, and service contractors engaged in the design,
18 operation or maintenance of the CADENA or any component digital system supporting
19 government transactions shall be deemed entities imbued with public interest and
20 must comply with the governance standards set by the Securities and Exchange
21 Commission in accordance with Republic Act No. 11232, or the "Revised Corporation
22 Code of the Philippines".

23
24 **SEC. 10. *National Budget Transparency and Accountability Council.*** – There
25 is hereby created a NBTAC to oversee the implementation, audit, and continuous
26 improvement of the CADENA and related mechanisms under this Act.

27
28 The NBTAC shall be composed of:

- 29
30 (a) The Secretary of the DICT, co-chairperson;
31 (b) The Secretary of the DBM, co-chairperson;
32 (c) The Chairperson of the COA, member;
33 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ), member;
34 (e) The Secretary of the DOF, member; and
35 (f) Four (4) citizen representatives, to be appointed by the President upon joint
36 recommendation of the DICT and DBM, through an open and transparent
37 selection process, representing the following:
38 1. Civil society organizations engaged in budget transparency, fiscal
39 openness, or participatory governance;
40 2. Academic or research institutions with expertise in public finance, data
41 analytics, or digital governance;
42 3. The media, particularly those with a track record in investigative
43 journalism, data reporting, or governance advocacy; and
44 4. The business and technology sector.
45

1 The citizen members shall serve for a term of three (3) years, and may be reappointed
2 for one (1) additional term.

3
4 The NBTAC shall meet at least once every quarter or as often as necessary to
5 effectively discharge its functions under this Act. All regular and special meetings shall
6 be conducted in a transparent and publicly accessible manner, subject to the
7 provisions of this Act and applicable laws.

8
9 A dedicated Program Management Office (PMO) for CADENA implementation shall be
10 established under DICT, adequately staffed with technical, procurement, change
11 management, and project management specialist. It shall also serve as the secretariat
12 for the NBTAC.

13
14 **SEC. 11. *Functions of the NBTAC.*** – The NBTAC shall have the following functions:

- 15
16 (a) Formulate and approve policies, data standards, interoperability protocols, and
17 governance guidelines for the CADENA;
18 (b) Oversee the IRR of this Act;
19 (c) Oversee compliance and performance audits of the system and its accredited
20 independent mirror sites;
21 (d) Ensure that all transparency mechanisms remain open-source, secure, and
22 citizen-accessible;
23 (e) Issue periodic reports to Congress and the President on the state of budget
24 transparency and recommend improvements;
25 (f) Monitor and evaluate the compliance of agencies covered under Section 5 of
26 this Act, and issue notices of non-compliance and warning to an erring and/or
27 noncomplying public official or employee;
28 (g) Initiative investigation, motu proprio or upon receipt of a complaint, and refer
29 the same to the CSC or the Office of the Ombudsman, or file cases for violations
30 of this Act;
31 (h) Engage relevant stakeholders in consultative and advisory capacities, when
32 necessary, without expanding the formal membership of the NBTAC;
33 (i) Ensure that all regular and special meetings of the NBTAC are publicly
34 accessible through live streaming and archiving via recognized streaming
35 platforms or government broadcasting channels, except when discussion
36 involve matters of national security or personal data protection, in which case
37 minutes shall still be published in summary form within seven (7) working days;
38 and
39 (j) Perform such other functions necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

40
41 **SEC. 12. *Implementation Timeline.*** – The establishment and operationalization of
42 CADENA shall be in phases, ensuring that transparency mechanisms are rolled out in
43 a manner consistent with agency readiness, data integrity, and fiscal process priorities,
44 as follows:

1
2 (a) Phase 1 – Immediate Disclosure through Agency Websites. Within nine (9) months
3 from the effectivity of this Act, all National Government departments, bureaus,
4 offices, agencies, and instrumentalities shall record and publish in their respective
5 official websites all public documents referred to under Section 5 of this Act:
6 Provided, That during this phase, the publication requirement for Infrastructure
7 and Procurement-related Documents under Section 5(d) shall apply only to
8 projects or contracts with an approved cost exceeding Two Million Pesos (PHP
9 2,000,000.00).

10
11 All published documents shall be in digitally structured format, searchable, and
12 officially certified. All agency disclosure systems shall adopt interoperable formats
13 to facilitate continuity and integration.

14
15 (b) Phase 2 – Integration with Top Spending Agencies. Within twenty-four (24) months
16 from the effectivity of this Act, the CADENA shall be deployed and fully integrated
17 with the financial management, accounting, and procurement systems of top-
18 spending agencies identified by the NBTAC, including, but not limited to, the
19 DepEd, the DPWH, DOH, DILG, and the DoTr.

20
21 During this phase, these agencies shall record and publish all documents
22 enumerated under Section 5 in open-source, interoperable, tamper-resistant, and
23 in structured digital format, including all Infrastructure and Procurement-Related
24 Documents under Section 5(d), regardless of project cost, through the CADENA.

25
26 The DICT, in coordination with the NPC, shall ensure that privacy-impact
27 assessments, cybersecurity protocols, and data-classification standards are in place
28 prior to full deployment of the CADENA within these agencies.

29
30 (c) Phase 3 – Full Government-Wide Implementation. Within three (3) years from the
31 effectivity of this Act, the CADENA shall be expanded to cover all other national
32 government agencies, GOCCs, and their subsidiaries. All National Government
33 departments, agencies, GOCCs, and other covered entities shall fully comply with
34 the disclosure requirements under Section 5, through CADENA, including the
35 disclosure of all Infrastructure and Procurement-Related Documents under Section
36 5(d) of this Act for all projects, regardless of amount or classification. Nothing in
37 this section shall preclude any department, agency, or GOCC from complying with
38 the requirements of this Act ahead of schedule or from undertaking parallel
39 implementation of succeeding phases.

40
41 **SEC. 13. *Capacity-Building and Technical Support.*** - During the initial
42 implementation period, the DICT shall provide capacity-building programs, systems
43 integration assistance, and technical support to ensure the readiness of all covered
44 entities for full adoption of the CADENA.

DICT, DBM, and DILG may provide technical assistance, shared hosting infrastructure, and training to LGUs that voluntarily adopt the CADENA or develop similar systems.

SEC. 14. *Progress Reports.* – The DICT shall submit to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) a written progress report within sixty (60) working days after the conclusion of each implementation phase of this Act.

The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- (a) Agency Compliance Levels – The percentage of required documents and structured digital records disclosed by covered entities within prescribed timelines;
- (b) System Performance – Metrics on the CADENA uptime, posting speed, interoperability, and cybersecurity safeguards, including results of independent audits conducted under this Act;
- (c) Citizen Access and Participation – Data on unique users, frequency of public access, number of downloads, citizen feedback submissions, and government response actions;
- (d) Governance and Oversight Metrics – Reports on NBTAC activities, meetings, and decisions relating to budget transparency, data integrity, and open-source collaboration;
- (e) Challenges Encountered – Technical, institutional, budgetary, or legal barriers to compliance, and recommended solutions; and
- (f) Recommendations – Proposed measures to strengthen transparency, accountability, data security, and citizen engagement.

All progress reports and accompanying datasets shall be published in open, structured digital formats through the CADENA, mirrored by accredited independent institutions and civil-society partners for public verification and long-term archival.

SEC. 15. *Evidentiary Value of CADENA Records.* – All records, data, and transactions stored in CADENA shall be considered prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein and shall be admissible in all judicial, quasi-judicial, and administrative proceedings, Provided, That the record:

- (a) Bears a digital timestamp;
- (b) Is cryptographically signed or verified through the digital portal; and
- (c) Has not been altered without authorization, as verified by CADENA's integrity controls.

SEC. 16. *Administrative Penalties.* – Any public official or employee who performs or causes the performance of the following acts shall be liable:

1 (a) Failure to disclose the required public budget data within seven (7) working
2 days from the date of approval, official issuance, receipt by the concerned
3 agency, or completion or generation of the document or work, whichever is
4 applicable; and

5 (b) Issuance, approval, or implementation of policies, rules and regulations that
6 are manifestly contrary or intended to circumvent the provisions of this Act, or
7 obstructs or interferes with the publication, audit, or verification of information
8 under CADENA.

9 Any violation of the preceding actions shall warrant the following penalties and
10 liabilities:

11 (a) First Offense. Administrative penalty of reprimand or up to six (6) months
12 suspension from the service; and

13 (b) Second Offense. Administrative penalty of dismissal from the service and
14 perpetual disqualification from holding office.

15 In cases where no specific officer, employee, or unit is designated as responsible for
16 the submission, publication, or safekeeping of documents required under this Act, the
17 HoPE shall be presumed responsible and held administratively liable under applicable
18 laws.

19
20 Non-compliance detected through CADENA shall trigger automatic referral to the CSC
21 and the Ombudsman. Quarterly compliance dashboards shall be publicly displayed.

22
23 **SEC. 17. Penal Provisions.** – (a) Any public official, employee, private individual or
24 entity who commits any of the following shall be liable:

25 (1) Fails to upload, disclose, or publish the required public budget data within thirty
26 (30) working days, without justifiable cause, from the date of approval, official
27 issuance, receipt by the concerned agency, or completion or generation of the
28 document or work, whichever is applicable;

29 (2) Knowingly publishes false, or misleading information to stimulate compliance
30 with this Act; or

31 (3) Willfully denies, conceals the existence of, or destroys or causes to be
32 destroyed, information and/or any document mandated for disclosure under
33 this Act.

34 Any violation of the preceding actions shall be meted out with the penalty of
35 imprisonment ranging from six (6) years and one (1) day to not more than fifteen (15)
36 years and a fine of up to Three Million Pesos (PHP 3,000,000.00).

37
38 (b) If such act was committed to conceal or facilitate fraud, graft, or corruption
39 involving public funds or property, the public officer or employee shall be liable as a
40 principal or co-conspirator to crimes punishable under Republic Act No. 3019 or the

1 "Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act" and Republic Act No. 7080 or the "Anti-Plunder
2 Act"; and

3
4 (c) Any private individual or entity who knowingly induces or causes the commission
5 of the foregoing acts shall be liable as principal by inducement in the prosecution of
6 public officials or employees under this section.

7
8 Criminal liability shall also be incurred through bribery, extortion, or malicious and
9 deliberate solicitation of favors in cash or in kind. In such cases, the pertinent
10 provisions of the Revised Penal Code and other special laws shall apply.

11
12 **SEC. 18. *Administrative Jurisdiction.*** - The administrative jurisdiction on any
13 violation of the provisions of this Act shall be vested in either the CSC, or the Office of
14 the Ombudsman as determined by appropriate laws and issuances.

15
16 **SEC. 19. *Civil and Criminal Liability, Not Barred.*** - The finding of administrative
17 liability under this Act shall not be a bar to the filing of criminal, civil, or other related
18 charges under existing laws arising from the same act or omission as herein
19 enumerated.

20
21 **SEC. 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the
22 effectivity of this Act, the DICT, in coordination with the DBM, COA, DOJ, and other
23 concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
24 effective implementation of this Act. The formulation of the IRR shall be undertaken
25 in consultation with representatives from civil society organizations, the academe,
26 media, and relevant industry stakeholders.

27
28 **SEC. 21. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** - The JCOC is hereby
29 constituted to be composed of eight (8) members with the Chairpersons of the
30 Committee on Science and Technology of the Senate and Committee on Information
31 and Communications Technology of the House of Representatives as Co-chairpersons;
32 Chairpersons of the Committee on Finance of the Senate and Committee on
33 Appropriations of the House of Representatives as members; and two (2) members
34 from each House to be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the
35 House of Representatives, respectively.

36
37 The JCOC shall monitor the effective implementation of this Act, recommend the
38 necessary remedial or administrative measures, and perform such other duties and
39 functions as may be necessary to attain the objectives of this Act.

40
41 **SEC. 22. *Appropriations.*** - To guarantee the implementation of the provisions of
42 this Act, a line item for digital-governance and transparency programs shall be
43 included in the general appropriation of the DICT. Subsequent funding requirements
44 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.*** - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act
2 is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected will
3 continue in full force and effect.

4
5 **SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations,
6 rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the
7 provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

8
9 **SEC. 25. *Effectivity.*** - This Act takes effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
10 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,