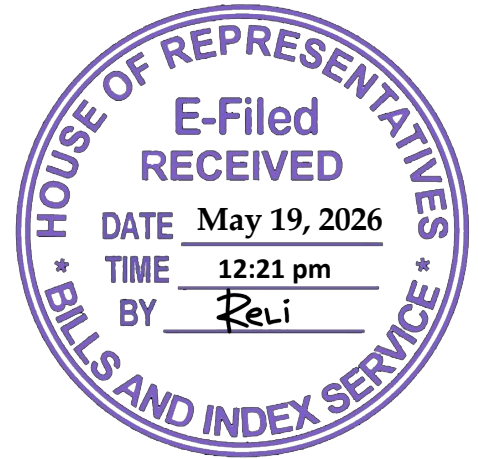




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9306



Introduced by Representative **ANTONINO B. ROMAN III**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Typhoons, earthquakes, floods, storm surges, volcanic eruptions, landslides, public health emergencies, cyber incidents, armed conflict, and other crises regularly test the capacity of government to communicate timely, accurate, and life-saving information to the public.

In many emergencies, the first systems to fail or become unreliable are precisely the systems people now depend on most: commercial cellular networks, internet connectivity, cable systems, and television infrastructure. Towers may be damaged. Fiber lines may be cut. Power may be unavailable. Networks may be congested. Remote and geographically isolated communities may be left without reliable access to official information when they need it most.

Radio remains one of the most resilient, accessible, and practical means of public communication during disasters. It can reach communities with limited connectivity, can operate with modest receiving equipment, and can continue functioning even when other communications systems are impaired, provided that government broadcast facilities and public radio assets are hardened, powered, connected, and properly integrated into emergency response systems.

This bill strengthens the Presidential Broadcast Service – Bureau of Broadcast Services (PBS-BBS), including the Radyo Pilipinas network, as the Government Last-Mile Emergency Communications Lifeline. It designates its essential facilities as Critical Emergency Communications Infrastructure for purposes of this Act and establishes a National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Program to ensure that

government broadcast facilities and public radio assets can continue operating before, during, and after disasters, emergencies, crises, and widespread communications disruptions.

Legislation is necessary because this measure is not merely an internal administrative adjustment. It establishes a statutory policy, creates an inter-agency coordination framework, provides a basis for recurring appropriations, institutionalizes modernization and resilience planning, protects authorized emergency broadcast operations, and ensures congressional oversight. These objectives require continuity across administrations and coordinated implementation among the Presidential Communications Office, PBS-BBS, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Office of Civil Defense, Department of Information and Communications Technology, National Telecommunications Commission, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior and Local Government, local government units, and other relevant agencies.

The bill is designed to be technically sound, fiscally disciplined, and implementable. It does not diminish the authority of existing agencies, including the spectrum management and regulatory powers of the National Telecommunications Commission. It preserves freedom of speech, expression, and of the press. It protects privacy and sensitive information. It allows flexible and technology-neutral implementation, including the use of leased, managed, shared, satellite, radio, digital, power, and other appropriate systems. It requires lifecycle asset management, maintenance, post-incident reviews, corrective action planning, and congressional review.

At its core, the bill treats emergency public communication as a life-saving public service. In a disaster, information is not merely an announcement; it can be the difference between evacuation and exposure, rescue and isolation, calm and panic, survival and loss. A resilient government emergency broadcast system is therefore an essential part of national preparedness, public safety, and continuity of government communications.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ANTONINO B. ROMAN III



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HOUSE BILL NO. 9306

Introduced by Representative **ANTONINO B. ROMAN III**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST SERVICE –
BUREAU OF BROADCAST SERVICES AS THE GOVERNMENT LAST-MILE
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS LIFELINE, DESIGNATING ITS
ESSENTIAL FACILITIES AS CRITICAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
INFRASTRUCTURE, ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY
BROADCAST RESILIENCE PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

TITLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Government Last-Mile Emergency Communications Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect the life, safety, security, and welfare of the people by ensuring the continuous availability of reliable public information and emergency communications before, during, and after disasters, emergencies, crises, and widespread communications disruptions.

The State recognizes that, in an archipelagic country frequently exposed to typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding, storm surges, tsunamis, landslides, armed conflict, cyber incidents, public health emergencies, and other hazards, commercial cellular, internet, cable, satellite, and television systems may become unavailable, congested, damaged, or unreliable. In such circumstances, terrestrial radio remains a vital, accessible, and resilient means of reaching remote, geographically isolated, disaster-stricken, and underserved communities.

The State further recognizes the unique public-service role of the Presidential Broadcast Service – Bureau of Broadcast Services (PBS-BBS), including its Radyo Pilipinas network, as a government broadcast platform capable of transmitting timely, official, and life-saving information to the public. Accordingly, PBS-BBS and its nationwide network of public radio stations shall be strengthened as part of the country's civil defense, emergency communications, public information, continuity of government communications, and disaster risk reduction and management framework.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict lawful private media operations, independent journalism, or constitutionally protected freedom of speech, expression, or of the press.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) *Critical Emergency Communications Infrastructure* refers, for purposes of this Act, to the essential broadcast, transmission, communications, operational, cybersecurity, energy, and support assets, systems, facilities, networks, services, and processes of PBS-BBS which are necessary for emergency broadcast operations and last-mile emergency communications, the incapacity, destruction, disruption, compromise, degradation, or unavailability of which would materially impair public safety, civil defense, emergency response, continuity of government communications, essential public services, or disaster risk reduction and management;
- (b) *Department of Information and Communications Technology* or *DICT* refers to the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch in the field of information and communications technology;
- (c) *Emergency Special Broadcast Mode* refers to the temporary emergency programming and operational mode of PBS-BBS under which regular programming may be suspended, modified, or subordinated to the immediate transmission of official public warnings, evacuation advisories, situational updates, disaster response information, public safety instructions, government announcements, and other verified life-saving or emergency information;
- (d) *Government Last-Mile Emergency Communications Lifeline* refers to the official emergency broadcast and last-mile public information function of PBS-BBS under this Act, through which it transmits, relays, receives, or facilitates the

exchange of official public information and emergency communications to and from communities, local government units, evacuation centers, response clusters, and affected populations, especially in areas where ordinary commercial communications networks are unavailable, congested, damaged, or otherwise unreliable;

- (e) *Last-mile emergency communications* refers to the capacity to transmit, relay, receive, or facilitate the exchange of official public information and emergency communications to and from communities, local government units, evacuation centers, response clusters, and affected populations, especially in areas where ordinary commercial communications networks are unavailable, congested, damaged, or otherwise unreliable;
- (f) *Local Government Unit* or LGU refers to a province, city, municipality, or barangay;
- (g) *National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council* or NDRRMC refers to the council created under Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010”;
- (h) *National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Program* refers to the program established under this Act for the modernization, hardening, redundancy, continuity, interoperability, cybersecurity, maintenance, lifecycle asset management, and disaster-resilience of PBS-BBS broadcast facilities, systems, equipment, personnel capabilities, and operating protocols;
- (i) *National Telecommunications Commission* or NTC refers to the government agency exercising regulatory and supervisory authority over telecommunications and broadcast spectrum use, subject to existing laws;
- (j) *Office of Civil Defense* or OCD refers to the implementing arm and secretariat of the NDRRMC;
- (k) *Presidential Broadcast Service – Bureau of Broadcast Services* or PBS-BBS refers to the government broadcast service under the Presidential Communications Office, including its national, regional, provincial, local, and affiliated public radio broadcast facilities, platforms, and services, including the Radyo Pilipinas network; and
- (l) *Widespread communications disruption* refers to the actual, imminent, or reasonably anticipated failure, degradation, congestion, interruption, disabling, or unavailability of communications services affecting one or

more communities, localities, provinces, regions, critical facilities, evacuation areas, or government response operations, whether caused by natural hazard, human-induced hazard, cyber incident, power outage, infrastructure damage, technical failure, armed conflict, public disorder, or other emergency conditions.

SEC. 4. Designation as Critical Emergency Communications Infrastructure. – PBS-BBS and its nationwide network of public radio stations, including the Radyo Pilipinas network and their essential broadcast, transmission, studio, tower, antenna, repeater, backhaul, energy, cybersecurity, data, operational, and support systems, are hereby designated, for purposes of this Act, as Critical Emergency Communications Infrastructure, particularly for disaster resilience, emergency communications, civil defense, continuity of government communications, and public safety.

As Critical Emergency Communications Infrastructure, PBS-BBS shall be considered for appropriate priority treatment, protection, and support in accordance with law, subject to availability of funds, operational feasibility, applicable emergency response priorities, and existing budgeting, procurement, accounting, auditing, energy, telecommunications, cybersecurity, and disaster risk reduction and management laws, rules, and regulations. Such treatment, protection, and support may include:

- (a) inclusion in relevant national and agency plans for infrastructure protection, disaster resilience, cybersecurity, emergency preparedness, continuity of operations, and civil defense;
- (b) prioritization, subject to applicable budgeting, procurement, accounting, and auditing laws, in the physical hardening, structural assessment, seismic retrofitting, flood protection, fire protection, cybersecurity protection, and operational continuity of essential broadcast facilities;
- (c) provision, deployment, or upgrading of resilient backup energy systems, which may include generators, fuel systems, renewable energy systems, battery energy storage systems, uninterruptible power supply systems, and other appropriate technologies to support continuous or rapidly restorable broadcast operations during grid failure or prolonged power interruption;
- (d) protection of authorized broadcast frequencies, subject to the spectrum management and regulatory authority of the NTC, against harmful interference, unauthorized use, encroachment, or other acts that impair

emergency broadcast operations, including malicious interference, spoofing, cyber-enabled disruption, or unlawful signal manipulation;

- (e) appropriate coordination, subject to applicable emergency protocols, existing emergency response priorities, operational feasibility, operational constraints, and availability of resources, for fuel, power restoration, access, security, repair, transportation, satellite or alternative backhaul support, and other logistical requirements during disasters, emergencies, crises, and widespread communications disruptions; and
- (f) integration, where appropriate, into national, regional, and local disaster risk reduction and management, emergency response, public warning, and continuity of government communications protocols.

SEC. 5. Designation as Government Last-Mile Emergency Communications Lifeline. – BS-BBS is hereby designated as the Government Last-Mile Emergency Communications Lifeline for the transmission of official, timely, accessible, and verified public information during disasters, emergencies, crises, and widespread communications disruptions.

This designation shall not diminish the mandates of the NDRRMC, OCD, DICT, NTC, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, LGUs, or other competent agencies. PBS-BBS shall function as an official emergency broadcast and public information platform in coordination with such agencies and in accordance with protocols issued under this Act.

PBS-BBS may coordinate, where appropriate and voluntary, with other public and private broadcast entities, community broadcasters, communications service providers, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and other communications partners, consistent with law, for the wider dissemination of official emergency information.

Where operationally necessary and consistent with law, PBS-BBS may also coordinate with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Bureau of Fire Protection, and other uniformed or emergency response agencies for access, security, logistics, restoration, transport, emergency relay, and continuity of emergency broadcast operations during severe disasters, emergencies, crises, armed conflict, public safety incidents, or widespread communications disruptions.

SEC. 6. Activation, Modification, and Termination of Emergency Special Broadcast Mode. – PBS-BBS shall activate Emergency Special Broadcast Mode during actual, imminent, or reasonably anticipated disasters, emergencies, crises, or widespread communications disruptions, including but not limited to destructive earthquakes, landfalling tropical cyclones, storm surges, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, widespread flooding, landslides, major fires, armed conflict, public health emergencies, cyber incidents affecting communications systems, prolonged power outages, major transport or industrial accidents, and other events requiring immediate official public information.

Activation shall be undertaken by PBS-BBS, through authorized officials designated under approved protocols developed in coordination with the NDRRMC and OCD.

Emergency Special Broadcast Mode may be activated upon:

- (a) declaration of a state of calamity, state of national emergency, public health emergency, or other emergency declaration by competent authority;
- (b) issuance of warnings, alerts, bulletins, or advisories by the NDRRMC, OCD, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Department of Health, Department of the Interior and Local Government, LGUs, or other competent agencies;
- (c) verified reports of widespread communications disruption affecting disaster response, evacuation, public warning, or essential public services;
- (d) request of the NDRRMC, OCD, concerned LGU, or other competent authority; or
- (e) determination by PBS-BBS, in accordance with approved protocols, that emergency broadcast operations are necessary to protect life, safety, or public order.

During Emergency Special Broadcast Mode, PBS-BBS may suspend, interrupt, modify, or override regular programming to broadcast official public warnings, evacuation orders, emergency advisories, situational updates, relief and rescue information, health and safety instructions, missing persons and family reunification information, restoration updates, and other verified emergency information.

PBS-BBS shall establish protocols governing the modification, scaling down, suspension, or termination of Emergency Special Broadcast Mode, taking into

account the status of the disaster, emergency, crisis, or communications disruption; the continuing need for official emergency information; and coordination with the NDRRMC, OCD, LGUs, and other competent authorities.

SEC. 7. Authoritative Emergency Information and Public Warning Function. – During Emergency Special Broadcast Mode, PBS-BBS shall serve as an official public emergency broadcast platform for the timely dissemination of verified information from competent government authorities, including the NDRRMC, OCD, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Energy, DICT, NTC, LGUs, and other agencies as may be necessary.

The information broadcast under this Act shall, whenever practicable, be:

- (a) accurate, verified, timely, and regularly updated;
- (b) understandable to the general public;
- (c) translated or delivered, where feasible, in Filipino, English, and appropriate local languages or dialects;
- (d) accessible to persons with disabilities, older persons, children, indigenous cultural communities, geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, and other vulnerable sectors through appropriate formats and coordination with relevant agencies; and
- (e) consistent with official disaster risk reduction and management, public warning, emergency response, and public health protocols.

No officer, employee, contractor, partner, volunteer, or authorized person acting under color of authority of PBS-BBS shall knowingly authorize, direct, or materially cause the broadcast of false, fabricated, materially misleading, or unverified emergency information that may endanger public safety, obstruct emergency response, compromise rescue or relief operations, violate privacy rights, or cause public panic. This paragraph shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, expression, and of the press, and shall not apply to good-faith reporting, good-faith reliance on official information from competent authorities, or reasonable correction of emergency information as facts develop during a disaster, emergency, crisis, or widespread communications disruption.

SEC. 8. Local Government Unit Feedback and Emergency Relay Function. – PBS-BBS, in coordination with the NDRRMC, OCD, Department of the Interior and Local Government, DICT, NTC, and concerned LGUs, shall develop and maintain mechanisms allowing LGUs and affected communities, especially those in communications dead zones or geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, to relay urgent information, status reports, resource requirements, and public safety concerns to appropriate national or regional authorities.

Such mechanisms may include radio call-in systems, high-frequency radio, satellite communications, microwave links, mobile broadcast units, digital platforms, community reporting protocols, emergency coordination desks, field-deployable radio kits, or other appropriate and secure communication modalities.

Nothing in this Act shall authorize the broadcast of unverified information that may endanger public safety, compromise response operations, violate privacy rights, or cause public panic. PBS-BBS shall adopt verification, clearance, and editorial protocols for emergency communications consistent with the need for speed, accuracy, public safety, and operational security.

Collection, transmission, storage, and dissemination of personal or sensitive personal information under this Act shall comply with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” and other applicable laws.

SEC. 9. National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Program. – There is hereby established a National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Program to ensure that PBS-BBS can perform its role as Critical Emergency Communications Infrastructure and as the Government Last-Mile Emergency Communications Lifeline.

The Program shall include:

- (a) assessment, mapping, and prioritization of PBS-BBS national, regional, provincial, and local broadcast facilities based on hazard exposure, population reach, strategic importance, service to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, disaster history, redundancy gaps, and operational vulnerability;
- (b) repair, rehabilitation, upgrading, or replacement of essential AM, FM, shortwave, digital, studio, transmission, antenna, tower, repeater, backhaul, switching, monitoring, control, cybersecurity, and support systems;
- (c) structural assessment, physical hardening, wind-load strengthening, seismic retrofitting, flood-proofing, fire protection, lightning protection, grounding, perimeter security, and other facility resilience measures;

- (d) installation or upgrading of backup and redundant energy systems, including, where technically and economically feasible, renewable energy systems, generators, battery storage, uninterruptible power supply systems, and fuel continuity arrangements;
- (e) deployment of resilient backhaul technologies, including satellite, microwave, high-frequency radio, fiber redundancy, mobile data, or other appropriate technologies capable of bypassing damaged terrestrial communications infrastructure;
- (f) acquisition, lease, service contracting, managed services arrangement, sharing arrangement, or pre-positioning of mobile and field-deployable emergency broadcast systems, including Radio-in-a-Box units, mobile transmitters, portable antennas, emergency studio kits, satellite terminals, emergency power kits, and other rapid deployment equipment for disaster-stricken areas, subject to applicable procurement, budgeting, accounting, auditing, and property laws, rules, and regulations;
- (g) development of emergency broadcast operations centers, continuity sites, backup studios, remote broadcast capability, and shared or interoperable facilities, where appropriate;
- (h) cybersecurity protection of critical broadcast and operational systems, including access controls, incident response plans, backup systems, redundancy, monitoring, and recovery protocols, consistent with applicable national cybersecurity policies, standards, and frameworks;
- (i) preventive maintenance, lifecycle asset management, spare parts management, technology refresh, retirement or disposal of obsolete assets consistent with government property and auditing rules, and sustainability planning for critical broadcast assets, systems, and equipment;
- (j) personnel training, drills, simulation exercises, emergency editorial protocols, technical maintenance training, personnel resilience, occupational safety, psychosocial preparedness, and safety procedures for PBS-BBS personnel and partner agencies;
- (k) interoperability and coordination with national, regional, and local disaster risk reduction and management systems, public warning platforms, emergency operations centers, and LGU communications systems;

- (l) coordination, where operationally necessary and consistent with law, with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Bureau of Fire Protection, and other uniformed or emergency response agencies for severe disasters, emergencies, crises, armed conflict, public safety incidents, or widespread communications disruptions;
- (m) post-incident reviews, after-action reports, and corrective action planning following major emergency activations, significant communications disruptions, major drills, or events revealing operational vulnerabilities; and
- (n) public awareness measures informing communities, LGUs, schools, evacuation centers, and households how to access PBS-BBS emergency broadcasts before, during, and after disasters and emergencies.

SEC. 10. National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Plan. – Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, PBS-BBS, through the Presidential Communications Office and in coordination with the NDRRMC, OCD, DICT, NTC, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fire Protection, and other relevant agencies, shall prepare and adopt a National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Plan.

The Plan shall include:

- (a) a nationwide inventory and vulnerability assessment of PBS-BBS broadcast assets and facilities;
- (b) a prioritized modernization, hardening, redundancy, continuity, maintenance, and lifecycle asset management roadmap;
- (c) minimum operational resilience standards for PBS-BBS stations and facilities;
- (d) emergency activation, verification, clearance, coordination, scaling down, termination, and broadcast protocols;
- (e) guidelines for coordination with LGUs and emergency operations centers;

- (f) a phased implementation schedule, with priority given to high-risk, disaster-prone, geographically isolated, underserved, and communications-vulnerable areas;
- (g) indicative funding requirements, cost estimates, procurement packages, staffing needs, operating costs, maintenance costs, lifecycle replacement costs, and sustainability requirements;
- (h) cybersecurity and physical security measures for critical broadcast assets, consistent with applicable national cybersecurity policies, standards, and frameworks;
- (i) training, exercises, simulation, personnel safety, psychosocial preparedness, and public information plans;
- (j) post-incident review, after-action reporting, corrective action, and lessons-learned protocols following major emergency activations, significant communications disruptions, major drills, or events revealing operational vulnerabilities;
- (k) measurable performance indicators, including coverage, uptime, activation speed, redundancy, restoration time, public reach, implementation of corrective actions, technological relevance, and cost-effectiveness; and
- (l) such other measures necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Implementation shall be phased and risk-prioritized, taking into account fiscal sustainability, hazard exposure, service gaps, population reach, geographic isolation, disaster history, communications vulnerability, operational feasibility, technological relevance, cost-effectiveness, and national budget availability.

The Plan shall be reviewed and updated at least once every three (3) years, or earlier when required by major disasters, technological developments, security risks, significant infrastructure changes, or findings from drills, post-incident reviews, after-action reports, and actual emergency activations.

SEC. 11. Inter-Agency Coordination. – The Presidential Communications Office, through PBS-BBS, shall serve as the lead implementing entity for the emergency broadcast resilience and last-mile public information functions established under this Act.

The following agencies shall provide support within their respective mandates. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to transfer, diminish, expand, or supersede the statutory mandates, regulatory powers, or operational authorities of participating agencies except as expressly provided herein:

- (a) The NDRRMC and OCD shall coordinate disaster risk reduction and management protocols, emergency activation procedures, response cluster integration, and linkage with national, regional, and local emergency operations centers;
- (b) The DICT shall provide technical support for resilient information and communications technology systems, cybersecurity, digital continuity, backup connectivity, data systems, and interoperability with government emergency communications platforms, consistent with applicable national cybersecurity policies, standards, and frameworks;
- (c) The NTC shall provide support in spectrum management, interference prevention, licensing or authorization requirements, emergency frequency coordination, and measures to protect authorized PBS-BBS broadcast operations, consistent with existing laws;
- (d) The Department of Energy shall assist in energy resilience planning, backup power strategies, fuel continuity coordination, renewable energy integration where feasible, and appropriate restoration coordination for critical broadcast facilities, subject to applicable emergency protocols, existing emergency response priorities, operational feasibility, operational constraints, and availability of resources;
- (e) The Department of the Interior and Local Government shall assist in coordinating LGU participation, integration of PBS-BBS emergency broadcast protocols into local disaster risk reduction and management plans, and dissemination of public information through local channels;
- (f) The Department of Budget and Management shall assist in the appropriate budgeting, phasing, and inclusion of funding requirements in the national budget, subject to applicable laws, fiscal policies, the annual budget preparation process, and existing fiscal rules;
- (g) The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

shall provide timely official warnings, advisories, bulletins, and technical information for broadcast;

- (h) The Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fire Protection, and other uniformed or emergency response agencies may provide support, where operationally necessary and consistent with law, in access, security, logistics, restoration, transport, emergency relay, and continuity of emergency broadcast operations during severe disasters, emergencies, crises, armed conflict, public safety incidents, or widespread communications disruptions;
- (i) LGUs shall coordinate with PBS-BBS, local disaster risk reduction and management offices, and regional or local emergency operations centers to facilitate the transmission and relay of official emergency information and community status reports; and
- (j) Other national government agencies, government-owned or -controlled corporations, and instrumentalities shall extend support as may be necessary and consistent with their respective mandates.

SEC. 12. Spectrum Protection and Interference Response. – The authorized broadcast frequencies and emergency broadcast operations of PBS-BBS shall be protected from harmful interference, unauthorized transmission, frequency encroachment, jamming, spoofing, cyber-enabled disruption, unlawful signal manipulation, signal disruption, or other acts that impair its public emergency broadcast function.

The NTC, consistent with its mandate and applicable laws, shall establish or strengthen procedures for:

- (a) monitoring and identifying harmful interference affecting PBS-BBS broadcast operations;
- (b) issuing timely directives, notices, or enforcement actions against unauthorized or harmful transmissions;
- (c) coordinating emergency frequency use during disasters, emergencies, crises, or widespread communications disruptions;
- (d) facilitating temporary or emergency authorizations, where necessary and lawful, to support emergency broadcast operations; and

- (e) coordinating with law enforcement agencies, cybersecurity authorities, and other competent agencies in appropriate cases.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish, transfer, or modify the statutory powers and regulatory authority of the NTC under existing laws.

SEC. 13. Continuity of Operations and Redundancy. – PBS-BBS shall maintain continuity of operations plans for critical broadcast facilities, studios, transmission sites, and emergency broadcast functions.

Such plans shall include:

- (a) backup studios and alternate broadcast sites;
- (b) redundant transmission and backhaul arrangements;
- (c) emergency staffing and personnel safety protocols;
- (d) priority repair and restoration procedures;
- (e) backup power, fuel, and energy continuity arrangements;
- (f) cybersecurity incident response and data recovery measures, consistent with applicable national cybersecurity policies, standards, and frameworks;
- (g) preventive maintenance, lifecycle asset management, spare parts management, technology refresh, retirement or disposal of obsolete assets consistent with government property and auditing rules, and sustainability measures;
- (h) emergency editorial and information verification protocols;
- (i) coordination with national and local emergency operations centers;
- (j) protocols for lawful leasing, service contracting, managed services, sharing arrangements, or other flexible arrangements necessary to ensure continuity of emergency broadcast operations, subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations; and
- (k) periodic drills, testing, post-incident reviews, after-action reporting, corrective action planning, and lessons-learned evaluation.

SEC. 14. Standards, Procurement, Technology Neutrality, and Asset Management. – The modernization, upgrading, and procurement of systems and equipment under this Act shall be guided by disaster-resilient, high-reliability, interoperable, secure,

maintainable, scalable, technologically relevant, cost-effective, and future-ready standards.

Procurement specifications shall avoid unnecessary technology lock-in and shall, whenever appropriate, allow the use of AM, FM, shortwave, digital, satellite, microwave, fiber, high-frequency radio, mobile, renewable energy, battery, generator, cloud-based, managed, leased, shared, or other technologies, facilities, and service arrangements suitable to local conditions, hazard exposure, coverage requirements, maintenance capacity, lifecycle cost, operational feasibility, technological relevance, cost-effectiveness, and public safety needs.

The modernization, upgrading, procurement, lease, service contracting, managed services, sharing arrangement, maintenance, repair, replacement, retirement, and disposal of assets under this Act shall comply with applicable procurement, budgeting, accounting, auditing, cybersecurity, data protection, environmental, building, energy, government property, and safety laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 15. Post-Incident Review and Corrective Action. – Following major emergency activations, significant communications disruptions, major drills, or events revealing operational vulnerabilities, PBS-BBS shall conduct a post-incident review in coordination with the NDRRMC, OCD, DICT, NTC, concerned LGUs, and other relevant agencies, as appropriate.

The post-incident review shall identify operational gaps, equipment or facility failures, communications bottlenecks, coordination issues, public information challenges, cybersecurity concerns, personnel safety issues, and other matters affecting the performance of PBS-BBS as the Government Last-Mile Emergency Communications Lifeline.

PBS-BBS shall prepare an after-action report and corrective action plan based on the post-incident review. The findings and recommendations, subject to lawful restrictions involving security, privacy, operational sensitivity, or protected information, shall inform updates to the National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Plan, continuity of operations plans, training programs, procurement priorities, and annual reports required under this Act.

SEC. 16. Good-Faith Emergency Operations; No New Private Right of Action. – No officer, employee, contractor, volunteer, or authorized partner of PBS-BBS acting in good faith under this Act shall incur civil, criminal, or administrative liability for delays, interruptions, inaccuracies, corrections, or emergency operational decisions made during disasters, emergencies, crises, or widespread communications

disruptions, absent willful misconduct, gross negligence, bad faith, or knowing dissemination of false emergency information.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt any person from liability for willful misconduct, gross negligence, bad faith, knowing dissemination of false emergency information, violation of Republic Act No. 10173 or the "Data Privacy Act of 2012," violation of anti-graft and corruption laws, or any criminal law involving intentional wrongdoing.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create an independent private right of action against the government, participating agencies, officers, employees, contractors, volunteers, authorized partners, or other authorized actors beyond remedies otherwise available under existing law.

SEC. 17. Protection of Security-Sensitive, Operationally Sensitive, and Protected Information. – Nothing in this Act shall require the public disclosure of information protected by law, classified national security information, cybersecurity-sensitive information, operationally sensitive emergency response information, personal data, confidential information, privileged information, or information exempt from disclosure under applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 18. Personnel Training and Capacity-Building. – PBS-BBS, in coordination with the NDRRMC, OCD, DICT, NTC, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and other relevant agencies, shall establish continuing training and capacity-building programs for personnel involved in emergency broadcast operations.

Such programs shall include:

- (a) disaster risk reduction and management orientation;
- (b) emergency broadcast activation, modification, scaling down, and termination protocols;
- (c) technical maintenance and rapid restoration;
- (d) use of mobile and field-deployable emergency broadcast systems;
- (e) cybersecurity awareness and incident response;
- (f) public warning and risk communication;
- (g) verification and responsible handling of emergency information;
- (h) coordination with LGUs and emergency operations centers;

- (i) occupational safety, personnel resilience, and psychosocial preparedness during disasters; and
- (j) simulation exercises and after-action evaluation.

SEC. 19. Public Access, Awareness, and Community Preparedness. – PBS-BBS, in coordination with the NDRRMC, OCD, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Education, LGUs, and other relevant agencies, shall conduct public awareness activities to inform communities of the role of PBS-BBS as the Government Last-Mile Emergency Communications Lifeline.

Such activities may include dissemination of station frequencies, emergency listening guidance, school and community disaster preparedness materials, evacuation center information materials, local language advisories, public service announcements, and coordination with community leaders, civil society organizations, schools, and local disaster risk reduction and management offices.

SEC. 20. Annual Report to Congress. – PBS-BBS, through the Presidential Communications Office, shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines, the Senate of the Philippines, and the House of Representatives not later than March 31 of each year following the effectivity of this Act.

The report shall include:

- (a) the status of implementation of the National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Program;
- (b) progress in modernization, hardening, redundancy, continuity, cybersecurity, maintenance, and lifecycle asset management measures;
- (c) facilities upgraded, repaired, hardened, leased, shared, retired, replaced, or prioritized;
- (d) emergency activations conducted during the preceding year;
- (e) results of drills, simulations, post-incident reviews, after-action reports, and corrective action plans;
- (f) coverage gaps, operational vulnerabilities, and communications dead zones identified;
- (g) coordination undertaken with national agencies, LGUs, and, where appropriate, public and private communications partners;
- (h) funds appropriated, released, obligated, disbursed, and utilized;

- (i) procurement and implementation status of major projects;
- (j) measurable performance indicators and outcomes, including implementation of corrective actions, technological relevance, and cost-effectiveness; and
- (k) legislative, budgetary, regulatory, or administrative recommendations.

SEC. 21. Congressional Oversight Review. – Within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act, the appropriate committees of the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, a review of the implementation, effectiveness, funding requirements, technological relevance, cost-effectiveness, operational impact, and continuing necessity of the National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Program.

For this purpose, PBS-BBS, through the Presidential Communications Office, and in coordination with the NDRRMC, OCD, DICT, NTC, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management, and other relevant agencies, shall submit such reports, data, and recommendations as may be necessary, subject to lawful restrictions involving security, privacy, operational sensitivity, or protected information.

SEC. 22. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against available appropriations of the Presidential Communications Office and PBS-BBS, subject to applicable budgeting, procurement, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act, including the National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Program, modernization projects, resilience upgrades, backup energy systems, mobile and field-deployable emergency broadcast equipment, training, maintenance, lifecycle asset management, cybersecurity, operational continuity measures, post-incident reviews, and corrective action planning, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, subject to congressional authorization, the annual budget preparation process, and existing fiscal rules.

The Department of Budget and Management, in coordination with the Presidential Communications Office, PBS-BBS, NDRRMC, OCD, DICT, NTC, Department of Energy, and other relevant agencies, shall consider the phased implementation requirements and priority areas identified in the National Emergency Broadcast Resilience Plan in the preparation of the annual national budget.

SEC. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Presidential Communications Office, through PBS-BBS, in coordination with the NDRRMC, OCD, DICT, NTC, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fire Protection, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions and purposes of this Act.

The implementing rules and regulations shall include, among others:

- (a) procedures for designating and protecting PBS-BBS assets as Critical Emergency Communications Infrastructure;
- (b) emergency activation, modification, scaling down, suspension, and termination protocols;
- (c) inter-agency coordination mechanisms;
- (d) information verification and clearance procedures;
- (e) safeguards against the knowing authorization, direction, or material causation of the broadcast of false, fabricated, materially misleading, or unverified emergency information that may endanger public safety, obstruct emergency response, compromise rescue or relief operations, violate privacy rights, or cause public panic, while protecting constitutionally guaranteed freedom of speech, expression, and of the press, good-faith emergency reporting, good-faith reliance on official information from competent authorities, and reasonable correction of emergency information as facts develop;
- (f) LGU feedback and emergency relay mechanisms;
- (g) spectrum protection and interference response procedures, including response to malicious interference, spoofing, cyber-enabled disruption, unlawful signal manipulation, and other acts impairing emergency broadcast operations;
- (h) minimum resilience, redundancy, cybersecurity, maintenance, lifecycle asset management, continuity, and asset retirement standards;
- (i) modernization planning and prioritization criteria;

- (j) privacy, data protection, and responsible information-handling safeguards;
- (k) post-incident review, after-action reporting, corrective action, and lessons-learned procedures;
- (l) treatment of security-sensitive, operationally sensitive, cybersecurity-sensitive, personal, confidential, privileged, protected, or otherwise lawfully exempt information;
- (m) good-faith emergency operations standards;
- (n) reporting and accountability requirements; and
- (o) other rules necessary for the effective implementation of this Act, consistent with its provisions and purposes.

SEC. 24. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 25. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 26. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,