



# TELECOM TOWER WATCH

BUILDING DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A DIGITAL PHILIPPINES



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COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY



**TELECOM TOWER WATCH is a monitoring and consultation initiative of the Department of Information and Telecommunications Commission in partnership with CitizenWatch Philippines that aims to support the accelerated building of digital infrastructure projects.**

**This advocacy will establish a regular venue for close monitoring and trouble shooting of unnecessary delays in the building of all telecommunications towers and related projects.**



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The project will have:

- an online awareness campaign that will provide current information on the status of ongoing telecommunications infrastructure projects
- a series of consultative meetings that would gather government, private sector, and other stakeholders to tackle issues, find solutions, and align strategies towards the fast expansion and upgrading of the country's digital infrastructure.

Hopefully, this venue will expand with the participation of the whole Philippine digital ecosystem



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While the COVID-19 pandemic persists as a long emergency that stifles economic growth, it has also exposed the Philippines' competence in the rapid digital transformation that society has been hurled into. The fundamental solution is a whole-of-society approach that is characterized with government supportive policies and massive public-private investments towards the development of telecommunication services.



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As socio-economic systems evolve in the 'new normal', the adoption of digital tools, cloud-based technologies and other online transactions have been brought to the fore.

All these will need fast, reliable and affordable Internet connectivity from mobile and fixed-line broadband networks.



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Economic recovery will be slow and protracted without digital infrastructures supporting its foundation. In a hyperlinked society connected via the Internet, all sectors of society depend on it for continued business operations, education, transportation, health-related concerns, information dissemination and delivery of public services.

Dependable Internet services will allow fast digitization of government bureaucracies and private industries to become competitive in the context of complying to the minimum safety protocols to safely live and work in pandemic conditions.





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### Outputs:

- Gather and organize data of all Telecom Tower and priority digital infrastructure projects
- Operationalize an online reporting and posting mechanism on the status of digital infrastructure projects
- Flag permitting guideline violations and permitting delays
- Flag project delays to DICT and concerned parties for appropriate action
- Regular media briefings on new developments

As we continue to face the pandemic, the accelerated digital transformation of society needs increased and sustained support from the public and private sectors. Digital innovation and adopting new technologies have been a vital part of surviving the pandemic and our crisis response. Moving forward, these same tools can revive and future-proof our economy, create jobs for the unemployed, and ensure business continuity.



Cloud based technologies have enabled us with safe and efficient connectivity to engage in all essential activities to survive, thrive and most certainly, indispensable in our recovery towards pre-pandemic prosperity. If the government's vision is to deliver digital services to all, government must invest in our digital infrastructure.

We must have the digital infrastructure to deliver the broadband speeds to run all the cloud-based services we need. Just as we can't afford delaying deployment of safe and effective vaccines, we can't afford the handicap of a lagging telecommunications infrastructure.



After decades of hesitation and bureaucratic resistance to the disruptive solutions of information and communications technology, we all know now that this is the only way to go.

**Indeed, the acceleration of the country's digital transformation should be the priority in the government's recovery strategies.**

Government investments in strategic telecommunications infrastructure will promote an economic revival that will unleash the country's digital potential to become a key player in a digitized global economy.



Digital technologies have become an indispensable extension of our physical and mental being. The warnings of inherent risks may be valid but very manageable, and experiencing the advantages, accessibility, and great utility of digitalization, is the big lesson of this crisis that will continue to shape the new normal.



## Prioritize public investment in broadband infrastructure for economic recovery

Aggressive investments already being done by the private telecommunications companies to expand and improve internet service will accelerate rapidly if government steps in to build a nationwide broadband backbone that will integrate with tower and fiber networks of private telcos.

Investing heavily in telecommunications networks is a proven strategy working well for our ASEAN neighbors that if delayed, or much worse, neglected, will leave us less competitive and may worsen the already deep economic slump.

## Enhance our Digital Infrastructures by prioritizing the National Broadband Plan

We can only emerge from the COVID-crisis as a competitive economy if we can keep up with an increasingly digitally driven global economy.

We cannot, and should not, be left behind in the new digital world.



## Enable public and private sector collaboration towards economic recovery and a fully digitized Philippines

CitizenWatch Philippines stands with Filipino consumers in supporting the call for the government to work with the private sector for economic progress. We call for increased public and private partnerships, which will foster a future-proofed Philippines with the full adoption of digital solutions and technologies.

Let us continue to build meaningful inter-sectoral cooperation and build towards a digitally robust Philippines for the benefit of all Filipino citizens.

CitizenWatch Philippines believes that the interconnectedness of society in the post-pandemic era is through digital connection. The best way to move forward from this pandemic is to strengthen our capacities through digital transformation.

Let us forge a future fortified with digital infrastructures!

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