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May 3, 2023

Sen. Alan Peter S. Cayetano
Chairperson
Committee on Science and Technology
Senate of the Philippines
GSIS Bldg., Financial Center,
Diokno Blvd., Pasay City
Philippines

Subject: Position on House Bill 7327 or the e-Governance Bill

Dear Chairperson Cayetano,

We would like to take this opportunity to provide our feedback and recommendations on House Bill 7327 or an Act Institutionalizing the Transition of the Government to e-Governance in the Digital Age, Creating for the Purpose the Philippines Infostructure Management Corporation and Appropriating Funds Thereof.

We support the creation of a national policy to establish the use of digital technologies to improve the way citizens services are delivered by the Government. Indeed, e-Governance can enhance efficiency and productivity, facilitate better collaboration among agencies, and ultimately solve some of the most challenging problems in society today.

Many sectors such as financial services, healthcare, education, manufacturing, and retail have benefited from the massive digital transformation that have transpired in such a short period of time. Cloud computing allows organizations to be more agile and innovate faster in a secure environment.

The importance of cloud computing for government digital transformation has been highlighted in recent papers by multilateral development partners. The Asian Development Bank's report on *Cloud Computing as a Key Enabler for Digital Government* (2021) as well as the recent World Bank report on *Government Migration to Cloud Ecosystems* (2022) describe the benefits to governments of public cloud adoption in terms of cost savings, capacity to scale rapidly, access to advanced cybersecurity features, increased operational efficiency and improved public service delivery capability. In particular, the World Bank report concludes that: "cloud services are essential for maximizing digital dividends and advancing digital transformation in developing countries."

Further, the Philippines is one of the first countries in Southeast Asia to adopt a Cloud First policy, in 2017 (updated 2020). This Policy has been instrumental in facilitating cloud adoption and digital transformation of several Philippines government agencies.



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PHILIPPINES**

AMERICAN



AUSTRALIAN-NEW
ZEALAND



CANADIAN



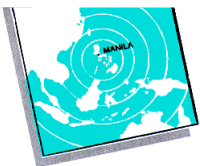
EUROPEAN



JAPANESE



KOREAN



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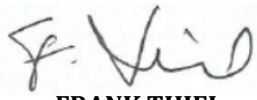
More than 100 Philippine government agencies are now using cloud as of early 2023. We therefore recommend that the Act include more explicit references to cloud computing, and also clarifies the management and oversight roles of the entities listed in the draft bill with respect to cloud procurement and implementation.

In addition, we recommend clarification on requirements in the bill on the proposed data storage and interoperability platform.


We have provided more detailed comments in the attached table.

Best regards,





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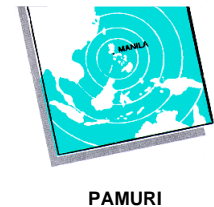

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Attachment: Table with detailed comments and recommendations