

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 125, July 19, 1999]

REVITALIZING THE NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (NITC) AND THE NATIONAL COMPUTER CENTER (NCC)

WHEREAS, the National Information Technology Plan for the 21st Century, or IT21 envisions the Philippines to become a Knowledge Center in Asia by the first decade of the 21st Century;

WHEREAS, to realize this vision there is need to leverage the country's competitive advantage and further build on the momentum gained over the past years on harnessing and exploiting the full potentials of information technology (IT) as a strategic tool and a development strategy for greater productivity and economic growth;

WHEREAS , there is an urgent need to strengthen the institutional mechanism to effectively mobilize and coordinate the individual and collective resources and talents of all sectors concerned in the pursuit of this vision;

WHEREAS , the National Information Technology Council (NITC), created pursuant to Executive Order No. 190, dated 19 July 1994, and reorganized pursuant to Executive Order No. 469, dated 23 February 1998, as the highest planning and policy advisory body on IT matters, needs a dynamic and effective executive agency to meet its technical support services requirements in the performance of its functions;

WHEREAS , the National Computer Center (NCC), which was created pursuant to EO No. 322 (s. 1971), as amended by PD No. 1480 (s. 1987), serves as the technical arm of the NITC;

WHEREAS , EO Nos. 34, 35, and 37, all dated 26 October 1998, provided for the restructuring of the NCC and redefinition of its powers and functions;

WHEREAS , there is need to revitalize the NCC to enable it to better perform its mandate;

WHEREAS , under Section 77 of the General Provisions of Republic Act No. 8745 (FY 1999 General Appropriations Act), the President may direct changes in the organization and key positions in any department, bureau or agency;

WHEREAS , Section 79 of the General Provisions of the same Act, directs heads of departments, bureaus, and agencies to scale down, phase out or abolish activities no longer essential in the delivery of public services, and provides that savings generated from the abolition, phasing out or scaling down of unnecessary activities may be used by the departments, bureaus and agencies concerned for the augmentation of their respective programs, projects, and activities;

WHEREAS , pursuant to EO 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), the President shall have continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA , President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following;

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of government in furtherance of national development, to create the appropriate policy and institutional environment to rationalize and accelerate the use, application, and exploitation of IT as a productivity tool and as development strategy for modernization and economic development.

SECTION 2. Lead Institutional Mechanism for IT. The National Information Technology Council (NITC) shall remain as the government's highest planning and policy advisory body on IT matters as provided in EO No. 469 (s. 1998). In the performance of its functions, the NITC can call on its members and the other departments and agencies of government to provide such support and resources as may be needed or required. The NITC may organize, on a need basis, sectoral and industry task forces, consisting of professionals/specialists from IT and other key sectors, disciplines, to assist in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of IT21 and its successors plans.

SECTION 3. Functions of the National Computer Center (NCC). The NCC shall provide technical and professional support to the NITC. Pursuant to EO No. 322 (s. 1971), as amended by PD 1480 (s. 1978), it shall have the following powers and functions:

(1) Undertake, in support of the NITC's planning and policy advisory functions, a periodic review of the National Information Technology Plan for the 21st Century or IT21, in coordination with appropriate bodies and agencies of government and the private sector, to ensure that the policy recommendations, strategies, programs and projects under IT21 are constantly updated and are consistent with national development priorities and requirements;

(2) Promulgate, subject to the approval of the NITC, such policies, programs and projects that will set the overall strategy and direction to fully harness and exploit IT for economic and social development, especially in addressing the needs of the poor sectors of the society;

Carry out, in cooperation with industry and other government agencies, focused policy and technological reviews, studies, as well as research and development (R&D) projects, to accelerate the development of the local IT and allied industries;

Facilitate the development and implementation of a government information systems plan (GISP), as approved by the NITC, to accelerate the application of electronic governance in the country for greater productivity, wider public access to information and faster delivery of basic services;

(5) Develop and promulgate, subject to the approval of the NITC, minimum standards and benchmarks for computerization and other IT-related activities in government;

(6) Review and approve proposed Information Systems Plans (ISPs) of national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, state