

[OP EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 34, October 26, 1998]

**PROVIDING FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE NATIONAL
COMPUTER CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Administrative Code of 1987 empowers the President with the continuing authority to reorganize the Office of the President and to transfer functions from one department or agency to another;

WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate, integrate, modify, and modernize the information infrastructure policies, programs and projects of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, there is a need for a central executive agency that will oversee the coordination and integration of government policies, programs and projects, in order to enhance the planning and use of computer resources with high quality and cost efficiency as a major consideration;

WHEREAS, there is a need to fast-track and modify the implementation of information infrastructure policies, programs and projects, where these are slow and ineffective.

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the Government, in furtherance of national development, to create the appropriate environment for, and rationalize the use and application of, information technology to attain the following objectives:

- (a) To optimize the use of information technology in meeting socio-economic development needs and in addressing national concerns such as poverty, crime, education, health and environment;
- (b) To ensure the protection of mission-critical and highly secure public and private sector data from hostile attacks that could endanger peace and order, national security and the operation of public utilities;
- (c) To ensure the protection of privacy rights in consideration of the right to information and the duty to enforce laws;
- (d) To ensure that the procurement of computer hardware and software will safeguard the public interest in terms of optimum serviceability, quality, benefits and economy;
- (e) To ensure compatibility of all government hardware and software;

- (f) To provide the mechanisms for the effective evaluation of information technologies before and during their actual use in government applications;
- (g) To encourage the development of government-wide information systems and networks to provide data and information needed for development planning and decision-making;
- (h) To optimize the use of information technology in electronic governance, thus achieving greater effectiveness, efficiency, accessibility, and accountability in public service;
- (i) To ensure that the use of information technology will support and enhance national competitiveness in the global arena;
- (j) To maximize the potential of information technology in increasing national productivity and creating national wealth;
- (k) To support the formation and sustainability of knowledge-based industries, thus creating new local employment opportunities and reducing overseas employment.
- (l) To promote the development, retention and optimum utilization of qualified information technology human resources."

Section 2. Functions and Powers of the National Computer Center (NCC). The NCC shall remain as an executive agency under the Office of the President and shall have the following functions and powers:

- (a) It shall be the implementing arm of all government computerization and electronic networking policies, programs and projects, and all other IT-related activities of government;
- (b) It shall devise and implement an integrated government computerization program coordinating all existing government entities, taking into account all their existing plans, programs, proposals, software and hardware inventory, installed systems and projects;
- (c) It shall design and build an integrated government information infrastructure (GII);
- (d) It shall review and approve proposed Information Systems Plans (ISPs) of National Government Agencies (NGAs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs), determine their funding requirements and endorse such funding requirements to the Department of Budget Management (DBM) or the BOT Center;
- (e) It shall audit the computer hardware and software inventory of all government entities to make sure that computer systems are used to its full potential;