



September 2025

# Konektadong Pinoy Act

R.A. No. 12234

## Background

The Konektadong Pinoy Act (RA No. 12234) (the “Act”), which lapsed into law on 23 August 2025, marks a defining moment in the Philippines’ digital evolution. This landmark legislation introduces a bold and inclusive framework to accelerate digital transformation, foster healthy competition, and expand reliable internet access to all Filipinos.

The Act positions digital inclusivity as a foundation for nation-building. By advancing open-access policy, it levels the playing field for all qualified providers, encourages infrastructure sharing, and ensures transparent spectrum management by removing barriers and enabling equitable, reliable connectivity for every Filipino.



### What it seeks to achieve

- Drive digital transformation
- Deliver reliable, inclusive internet to all Filipinos
- Remove legislative franchises for data transmission industry participants (DTIPs)
- Promote infrastructure sharing
- Ensure transparent spectrum management
- Encourage fair competition among providers
- Enable faster network rollout in underserved areas
- Advance greater digital inclusion for all communities

### Who must comply

Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers, Satellite System Operators (SSPOs), telecom companies that mainly offer traditional phone services, and infrastructure owners/access providers.

### Dig Once Policy



- Streamlines the installation of broadband conduits alongside public and private infrastructure projects.
- Aims to reduce costs, avoid repeated excavations, and fast-track digital infrastructure rollout.
- Allows entities to proceed independently with relevant projects if no public works are scheduled, provided safety and regulatory standards are met.
- Mandates the development of model plans for LGUs to ensure nationwide consistency and efficiency.

### Administrative registration process



- Register with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).
- Meet data transmission eligibility. Foreign entities shall be subject to relevant laws on foreign equity restrictions.
- Get NTC administrative registration.
- If intending to use spectrum resources, secure authorization from the NTC.
- If seeking to operate an international gateway facility, core, or backbone network, secure authorization from the NTC.
- Register cybersecurity compliance plans.

## Salient provisions of the Law

### 1. Scope and coverage

This law applies to all companies and providers involved in data transmission, including:

- Internet Service Providers (ISPs);
- Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers;
- Satellite Systems Operators (SSPOs);
- telecom companies that mainly offer phone services, e.g., mobile, landline, or international calls (only for data transmission services and how their networks connect with other providers); and
- infrastructure owners or access providers

### 2. Removal of legislative franchise

The Act repeals key provisions of Act No. 3846 (Radio Control Law) and Republic Act No. 7925 (Public Telecommunications Policy Act), which previously required a congressional franchise to operate certain telecommunications services. Data transmission industry participants (DTIPs) are no longer required to secure a legislative franchise to construct, install, or operate data transmission networks—streamlining entry, fostering innovation, and accelerating infrastructure deployment.

However, existing legislative franchises for telecom services remain valid, as long as they do not cover data transmission. Prior National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)—issued Provisional Authorities (PAs), Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCNs), and registrations for data transmission are automatically recognized and do not require revalidation. These are considered compliant with DTIP qualifications until they expire.

All valid spectrum assignments at the time of the Act's effectivity remain in force, subject to the Spectrum Management Policy Framework (SMPF) and related regulations. Existing agreements on infrastructure access, sharing, and co-location also remain valid, provided they comply with the Act and its IRR.

### 3. Infrastructure sharing and co-location

This framework is designed to encourage infrastructure sharing among DTIPs. Entities can lease or access the digital infrastructure of other providers, a provision intended to lower capital expenditures and accelerate network rollout, particularly in unserved and underserved areas.

Access to government-owned infrastructure is mandatory unless justified by special circumstances like national security. Infrastructure must be expanded beyond urban centers to underserved areas and deployed efficiently, including through independent providers.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), and other agencies shall issue policies requiring buildings and developments to include infrastructure such as cable entrances and ducts that enable non-discriminatory access for multiple DTIPs.

### 4. Regulatory oversight and governance

The DICT shall be the policy-making body of the Act. Meanwhile, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) shall be the principal regulatory and adjudicatory body over the data transmission sector, including the registration of DTIPs.

The DICT shall pursue programs to incentivize DTIPs to prioritize unserved or underserved areas (e.g., areas near educational institutions), to be identified by the DICT.

In turn, the NTC shall formulate the eligibility criteria for the registration of DTIPs and monitor their compliance during investigations.

### 5. Administrative registration

Instead of a legislative franchise, the Act introduces a straightforward administrative registration with the NTC through a fast process aligned with the standards of the DICT. DTIPs seeking registration must meet the eligibility criteria to construct, operate, lease, or own networks or facilities, including radio stations. Additionally, DTIPs using spectrum must secure authorization from the NTC.

Foreign entities who wish to enter the data transmission industry must comply with the Foreign Investment Act of 1991 (as amended by R.A. No. 11647) and the Public Service Act (as amended by R.A. No. 11659). Those planning to operate international gateways or a core or backbone networks must also obtain NTC approval based on their rollout plans and construction approach.

## 6. Cybersecurity compliance

All DTIPs must follow national and global cybersecurity standards and undergo a performance audit by the DICT. Within two years from registration, DTIPs shall secure a cybersecurity certification from a third-party organization based on International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards or other minimum-security benchmarks set by the DICT.

## 7. Spectrum management reform

The Spectrum Management Policy Framework (SMPF) shall ensure fair competition, adaptability to technological advances, and efficient spectrum use among registered DTIPs, aligned with international standards and relevant laws. It will outline national policies on spectrum valuation, pricing, allocation, and assignment for public, private, and government use.

Within three (3) months of the effectivity of the SMPF's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the NTC, in coordination with the DICT, shall review existing spectrum allocations and provide recommendations to improve efficiency. Based on these, the DICT shall develop and promulgate the SMPF within one (1) year, in coordination with the NTC and PCC. The SMPF shall be reviewed annually and updated every four (4) years or as needed.

## 8. Direct act to satellite systems

Registered DTIPs can directly use satellite technology and spectrum for their broadband networks without leasing from public telecom entities (PTEs). They don't need prior approval from DICT or NTC but must submit access details for record-keeping.

## 9. Dig Once Policy

The Act mandates a unified Dig Once Policy to streamline the installation of broadband conduits alongside public and private infrastructure projects. Led by DICT and DPWH, the policy aims to reduce costs, avoid repeated excavations, and fast-track digital infrastructure rollout.

Entities may proceed independently if no public works are scheduled, provided safety and regulatory standards are met. Model policies will be developed for LGUs to ensure nationwide consistency and efficiency.

## 10. Fair competition and technological neutrality

The PCC and NTC are tasked with eliminating entry barriers and fostering a competitive environment through interagency cooperation and information sharing. These agencies also help ensure technological neutrality by applying the law's provisions to future innovations in data transmission, with necessary adjustments (*mutatis mutandis*).

## 11. Prohibited acts

- Refusal to plug and play: Access providers must not deny access to infrastructure listed in the access list, except in cases of non-payment of open market fees or verified security risks confirmed by the DICT.
- Refusal to give information: Access providers must not withhold timely technical or commercial information needed by data transmission suppliers to deliver services efficiently.
- False information and material misrepresentation: DTIPs must not provide false information, misrepresent compliance, or falsely advertise their services.
- Anti-competitive cross-subsidization: DTIPs must maintain separate accounts for each data transmission segment to track costs and revenues. Violations may be presumed anti-competitive and referred to the PCC under the Competition Act. Cost-based charges for interconnection remain allowed.

## 12. IRR and transactional provisions

The Act mandates the DICT, NTC, PCC, DPWH, DOTr, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), in consultation with key stakeholders, to prepare and promulgate the IRR within 90 days from the effectivity of this Act.



## Insights of telcos and stakeholders from news articles

The Konektadong Pinoy Act aims to expand internet access, simplify telco licensing, and boost competition. New players like DITO and Converge support the reform, while global business groups see it as key to unlocking the Philippines' digital economy.

However, major telcos like Globe and PLDT raised concerns over cybersecurity, regulatory oversight, and fairness. Globe warned of risks tied to unvetted market entrants and spectrum interference, while PLDT flagged the burden of infrastructure sharing.

The DICT assures that consumer protection and national security remain central, with strict vetting and coordinated oversight. As the law moves to implementation, clear and balanced IRR will be critical to ensuring inclusive, secure, and competitive connectivity.

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