

Item No.: 27

Republic of the Philippines Date: 18 2025 NOV

PROVINCE OF LEYTE



SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

12 November 2025

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED
Date: NOV 13 2025
By: [Signature]

The Illustrious Vice Governor
and the Distinguished Board Members
of the Great People of Leyte

GENTLEMEN:

Took Liberty in formally bringing to your attention and submit for your consideration a copy of Senator Bam Aquino's Senate Bill No.1506, titled "Mandating the Full Disclosure of Government Transactions Through the Establishment of A Digital Budget Portal to Enhance Transparency, Accountability, and Public Participation in the Philippine Budget Process."

This significant piece of legislation aims to promote transparency and accountability in our governmental operations by providing a comprehensive digital platform that allows citizens to access and engage with budgetary information seamlessly. The establishment of such a portal not only fosters public awareness but also empowers citizens to actively participate in the budget process, ultimately leading to better governance and trust in our institutions.

I believe that it is imperative for us to thoroughly examine the provisions outlined in Senate Bill No. 1506 as it proposes a very relevant mechanism. Consequently, I am writing to propose that we go over the bill in detail, and explore the possibility of passing a resolution to manifest our support for this measure and encourage commitment by members of Congress to its passage into law.

Our active involvement in this matter would perhaps be invaluable, and I sincerely hope you can join me in advocating for a more transparent and accountable government.

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative, and I am eager to hear your thoughts on how we can work together to promote this significant piece of legislation.

With warm personal regards and advance Merry Christmas.

Very truly yours,

ATTY. CARLO P. LORETO



TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

Office of the Secretary

25 NOV 12 P2:39

SENATE

S. No. 1506

RECEIVED BY: 

(In Substitution of Senate Bill No. 1330)

Prepared by the Committees on Science and Technology and Finance
with Senators Bam Aquino and Joel Villanueva as authors thereof

AN ACT
MANDATING THE FULL DISCLOSURE OF GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS
THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIGITAL BUDGET PORTAL TO
ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION IN THE PHILIPPINE BUDGET PROCESS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “CADENA Act.”

2 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to uphold
3 transparency, accountability, and good governance in the management and
4 disbursement of public funds. The State shall safeguard honesty and integrity in public
5 service, adopt effective measures against graft and corruption, and institutionalize
6 public disclosure through open, verifiable, and citizen-accessible digital systems. To
7 this end, the government shall establish a digital platform that provides timely,
8 accurate, tamper-resistant, interoperable, and traceable publication of government
9 budget transactions. The system shall guarantee that all government appropriations,
10 disbursements, procurements, and expenditures are disclosed and made publicly
11 accessible to citizens and oversight institutions.

12 Sec. 3. *Definition of terms.* – As used in this Act:

13 (a) *Budget Process* refers to the entire cycle of planning, legislation, execution,
14 and accountability through which public funds are proposed, authorized, released,
15 disbursed, and reported;

1 (b) *Citizen Access and Disclosure of Expenditures for National Accountability*
2 (*CADENA*) refers to the digital budget portal established under this Act to serve as the
3 official and publicly accessible portal for all public budget data;

4 (c) *Cryptographic* refers to the use of mathematical methods or algorithms to
5 secure and verify digital data or transactions, ensuring their integrity, and authenticity;

6 (d) *Data Embassy* refers to a secure server or storage facility located outside
7 the Philippines but placed under Philippine ownership, jurisdiction, and control, for
8 data backup and continuity of critical fiscal systems;

9 (e) *Data Integrity* refers to the accuracy, consistency, and reliability of data
10 throughout its lifecycle, ensuring that public fiscal information has not been altered or
11 tampered with after its creation;

12 (f) *Data Minimization* refers to the principle that only the data and information
13 necessary, relevant, and proportionate to the purpose of disclosure or processing shall
14 be collected, recorded, and published;

15 (g) *Data Sovereignty* refers to the principle that all public budget data under
16 this Act shall remain the property of the Filipino people, held in trust by the State, and
17 governed by Philippine laws on data protection, privacy, and national security;

18 (h) *Digital Budget Portal* refers to a digital platform that records, organizes, and
19 publishes government transactions and documents in an open-source, interoperable,
20 tamper-resistant, and structured digital format;

21 (i) *Digital Signature* refers to an electronic method of authentication using
22 encryption or cryptographic algorithms that validates the identity of the sender or
23 author of a digital record and ensures non-repudiation of published transactions;

24 (j) *Disclosure* refers to the process of recording, certifying, and publishing of
25 public budget data under this Act in a manner that ensures accuracy, authenticity,
26 time-stamping, and public accessibility in structured digital formats, for the purpose
27 of promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance;

28 (k) *Distributed Ledger Technology* refers to a shared database architecture that
29 records transactions across multiple nodes or locations to ensure verifiability and
30 resistance to tampering;

1 (l) *Interoperability* refers to the capability of different systems, platforms, or
2 technologies to exchange, interpret, and use information in a coordinated and secure
3 manner, consistent with established standards;

4 (m) *Mirror Site* refers to an accredited independent copy or parallel instance of
5 CADENA, maintained by non-government organizations, media institutions, or
6 universities to provide redundancy, tamper-resistant, and continuous public access to
7 official data;

8 (n) *Open Application Programming Interface (API)* refers to a publicly
9 documented software interface that allows authorized users, systems, or developers
10 to access, retrieve, or submit data from the CADENA under defined security, privacy,
11 and access controls;

12 (o) *Open-source* refers to software or technology whose source code is publicly
13 accessible, allowing anyone to inspect, use, modify, and distribute it;

14 (p) *Publicly Accessible* refers to the state or condition in which data, records,
15 or documents are made available to the general public through an online platform
16 without the need for prior authorization, ensuring that any individual may freely view,
17 search, download, verify, and analyze such information in a structured digital format;

18 (q) *Public Budget Data* refers to all information, documents, datasets, and
19 transaction records generated or required to be disclosed under Section 5 of this Act,
20 covering all phases of the national budget cycle from preparation and legislation to
21 execution and accountability;

22 (r) *Record and Publish* refers to the to the process of uploading or encoding,
23 certifying, and making public budget data available through the official disclosure
24 platform prescribed under this Act, in accordance with the timeframes, formats, and
25 authentication standards provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR);

26 (s) *Redundancy* refers to the establishment of multiple, independent systems
27 or data copies to ensure data preservation, reliability, and continuity of public access
28 in case of system failure or disruption;

29 (t) *Responsible Agency and Accountable Officer* refers to the government entity
30 and designated official identified as responsible for the certification, recording, and
31 publication of specific categories of public budget data;

1 (u) *Structured Digital Format* refers to a machine-readable data format that
2 complies with open data standards, such as CSV, JSON, or XML and allows automated
3 processing, analysis, and interoperability among information systems;

4 (v) *Tamper-resistant* refers to the property of a record or system that makes
5 any unauthorized alteration, deletion, or manipulation of recorded data extremely
6 difficult by way of technological and operational safeguards, including but not limited
7 to cryptographic protections, secure key management, hardware security modules,
8 redundancy and access controls, such that any attempt at tampering would be
9 prohibitively costly, detectable, and would leave measurable forensic evidence; and

10 (w) *Unified Accounts Code Structure (UACS)* refers to the government-wide
11 coding framework prescribed by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM),
12 in coordination with the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Commission on Audit
13 (COA), that provides a unified and consistent classification system for budgeting,
14 accounting, and auditing of government transactions. It serves as the standard
15 reference for identifying the source, purpose, and use of public funds across all phases
16 of the national budget cycle.

17 Sec. 4. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all National Government
18 departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities, including
19 government-owned or controlled corporations, and their subsidiaries.

20 The Act shall likewise apply to all projects and programs funded through public-
21 private partnerships (PPPs) or foreign-assisted programs insofar as they utilize,
22 disburse, or account for public funds through national government agencies or
23 mechanisms.

24 Local government units (LGUs) are not covered by this Act but are encouraged
25 to adopt similar mechanisms consistent with the principles and standards established
26 under this Act, to strengthen fiscal transparency, participatory governance, and public
27 accountability at the local level.

28 Sec. 5. *Disclosure of Public Budget Data.* – All National Government entities are
29 hereby mandated to record and publish to CADENA the data and information found in
30 every document relating to the national government budget process to facilitate public
31 scrutiny and ensure transparency in budget planning and preparation, budget
32 legislation and authorization, budget execution and fund management, procurement

1 process and contract management, and revenue collection and generation. For this
 2 purpose, the data from the following documents and such other documents as may
 3 be determined by the National Budget Transparency and Accountability Council
 4 (NBTAC) shall be disclosed and published in accordance with this Act:

Type of Document	Responsible Agency
(a) Budget Preparation Documents	
i. Budget Call	Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
ii. All Versions of Budget Preparation Forms submitted by agencies through the OSBP Portal	Concerned line agencies, consolidated by DBM
iii. National Expenditure Program (NEP)	DBM
iv. Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF)	DBM
v. President's Budget Message	DBM / Office of the President
(b) Budget Legislation Documents	
i. General Appropriations Bill (GAB) versions	House of Representatives (HOR) and Senate of the Philippines (Senate)
ii. Committee Reports	HOR and Senate
iii. Individual, Committee, and Bicameral Amendments	HOR and Senate
iv. Bicameral Report	HOR and Senate
v. President's Veto Message	DBM / Office of the President
vi. General Appropriations Act (GAA)	DBM
(c) Budget Execution and Fund Release Documents	
i. Agency-level Budget Execution Documents	Concerned agencies
ii. National Budget Circular (NBC) with Agency Budget Matrix (ABM)	DBM
iii. Allotment Release Orders (SAROs)	DBM
iv. Notices of Cash Allocation (NCAs)	DBM

1	v. Other Fund Release Documents (including CDCs,	DBM / Bureau of Treasury
2	MYCAs, and others)	(BTr)
3	vi. Fund Release Receipts	Concerned agencies
4	vii. Registry of Allotments, Obligations, and	Concerned agencies
5	Disbursements (RAOD)	
6	viii. Disbursement Vouchers	Concerned agencies
7	ix. Fund Utilization Reports	Concerned agencies /
8		DBM
9	x. All Civil Service Commission (CSC) – DBM –	DBM / COA / CSC
10	Commission on Audit (COA) Circulars	
11	(d) Infrastructure and Procurement-Related Documents	
12	i. Program of Works	Procuring agencies
13	ii. Bill of Quantities	Procuring agencies
14	iii. Detailed Unit Price Analysis	Procuring agencies
15	iv. Bid Announcements and Invitations to Bid	Procuring agencies
16	v. Request for Expressions of Interest	Procuring agencies
17	vi. Technical and Financial Evaluation	Procuring agencies
18	vii. Records of Competing Bids	Procuring agencies
19	viii. Eligibility & Ownership Disclosures / Certifications of	Procuring agencies
20	Good Standing	
21	ix. Notices of Award and Notices to Proceed	Procuring agencies
22	x. Contracts and Purchase Orders	Procuring agencies
23	xi. Performance/Warranty Security	Procuring agencies
24	xii. Advanced Payment/Mobilization Fee Receipt	Procuring agencies
25	xiii. Milestone Billings and Progress Billings	Procuring agencies
26	xiv. Inspection and Acceptance Reports	Procuring agencies
27	xv. Delivery Receipts	Procuring agencies
28	xvi. Disbursement Vouchers, Progress Billings, and	Procuring agencies
29	Completion Certificates	
30	xvii. Other related documents pursuant to Republic Act	As prescribed in the IRR
31	No. 12009 (New Government Procurement Act)	

1	(e) Budget Accountability Documents	
2	i. Agency Performance Review Reports and BFARs	DBM / Concerned agencies
3		
4	ii. Agency Financial Statements	Concerned agencies /
5		COA
6	iii. COA Annual Audit Reports	COA
7	iv. Audit Observation Memorandums	COA
8	v. Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation	Concerned agencies /
9	(AAPSI)	COA
10	vi. Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations,	Concerned agencies
11	and Disbursements and Balances (SAAODB)	
12		
13	vii. Records of oversight hearings, performance audits,	Congress / COA /
14	and corrective action reports	Concerned agencies

15 (f) Other Documents. – The NBTAC may determine additional documents for
16 which other public budget data should be disclosed under this Act, without prejudice
17 to other disclosures necessary to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen
18 participation in the budget process.

19 Data and information required to be disclosed under this section, as derived
20 from the documents enumerated herein, shall hereafter be referred to as "Public
21 Budget Data." All Public Budget Data shall be digitally certified and presented in a
22 structured digital format, in accordance with the standards to be prescribed by the
23 NBTAC, ensuring that every allocation, transaction, or transfer is easily searchable,
24 traceable, and analyzable by the public.

25 For each type of document listed above, the Implementing Rules and
26 Regulations (IRR) shall clearly identify the responsible agency or office, as well as the
27 designated accountable officer, for the disclosure of public budget data under this Act.
28 For procurement-related documents under subsection (d), the designated accountable
29 officer shall be the Head of the Procuring Entity (HoPE).

30 All required public budget data in the documents listed above shall be disclosed
31 by the designated accountable officer within seven (7) working days from the date of
32 approval, official issuance, receipt of the concerned agency, completion, or generation

1 of the document, whichever is applicable. All corrections or updates shall be versioned
2 in a manner that retains previous entries to ensure data traceability, auditability, and
3 accountability.

4 Disclosures shall include linkage identifiers or references sufficient to trace each
5 appropriation, obligation, and disbursement to the corresponding final payee,
6 contractor, or beneficiary program, using the Unified Accounts Code Structure (UACS)
7 and other interoperable tagging standards.

8 Beyond document publication, agencies shall ensure that budget-cycle datasets
9 are interlinked and reconcilable, allowing citizens to trace the full flow of funds from
10 authorization to actual expenditure and results achieved.

11 The disclosure requirement under this Act shall not apply to specific data fields
12 within documents whose publication would compromise national defense or security,
13 or violate the Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, as determined
14 by the NBTAC in consultation with the National Privacy Commission and other
15 appropriate agencies: *Provided*, That the provisions of the Data Privacy Act of 2012,
16 shall not be invoked to restrict or delay the disclosure of public budget data, as public
17 expenditure, contract, and supplier information shall not be deemed personal data.

18 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish, restrict, or otherwise limit
19 existing transparency and disclosure obligations under other laws, rules, and
20 regulations.

21 *Sec. 6. Data Quality Standards.* – The National Transparency and Accountability
22 Council (NBTAC) shall determine data quality, formatting, and metadata standards for
23 the CADENA to ensure completeness, consistency, searchability, and interoperability
24 across agencies, enabling cross-referencing through standard coding systems such as
25 the Unified Accounts Code Structure (UACS).

26 The implementing rules shall ensure that the CADENA aligns with the standards
27 of existing transparency systems of the DBM, COA, and other agencies toward a
28 unified, interoperable, and open public financial data framework.

29 *Sec. 7. Establishment of the CADENA.* – The Citizen Access and Disclosure of
30 Expenditures for National Accountability (CADENA) shall serve as the official and
31 publicly accessible portal for all public budget data required under this Act.

1 The CADENA shall be the primary access point through which the public may
2 freely access, search, and download public budget data in open-source, interoperable,
3 tamper-resistant, and structured digital format. It shall provide features that promote
4 transparency, accountability, and citizen participation, subject to tiered-access
5 controls to protect personal data and national security information.

6 The CADENA shall be developed using distributed ledger technology including
7 but not limited to blockchain, secure data integrity technology, or other technology
8 that conforms with the standards and features prescribed under section 8 of this Act.
9 The NBTAC shall, at intervals of not more than three (3) years, review and recommend
10 the adoption of alternative or emerging technologies.

11 CADENA shall interface with existing government systems including but not
12 limited to the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), Budget
13 and Treasury Management System (BTMS), Philippine Government Electronic
14 Procurement System (PhilGEPS), and other platforms through standardized
15 Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) or newer technologies. These systems shall
16 maintain parallel operation during transition periods as specified by the NBTAC.

17 *Sec. 8. Core Features of the CADENA.* – The CADENA shall be designed to
18 promote transparency and accountability in all phases of the national budget cycle. It
19 shall, at a minimum, have the following features:

20 (a) Data Integrity and Authenticity – All published records shall bear digital and
21 non-repudiable signatures, timestamps, and metadata ensuring verifiable origin and
22 traceability.

23 (b) Transparency and Accessibility – All budget records and reports shall be
24 made available through public dashboards and open application programming
25 interfaces (APIs) in structured digital formats for real-time access, visualization, and
26 reuse, subject to tiered access controls to protect personal data and privileged
27 information.

28 (c) Redundancy and Oversight – Independent mirror sites, hosted by qualified
29 and accredited institutions, including government agencies, the private sector, civil
30 society, and the academe, and other third-party audit mechanisms shall be established
31 to safeguard against data loss, tampering, and concentration of control and strengthen
32 mutual oversight and institutional accountability.

1 (d) Traceability Across the Budget Cycle – The system shall maintain a
2 structured audit trail linking each stage of the budget process from call and approval
3 to release, procurement, and liquidation, identifying the responsible committee or
4 agency at each decision point, while observing data minimization and purpose
5 limitation under applicable privacy laws.

6 (e) Programmability and Process Validation – The CADENA may employ rule-
7 based or automated validation tools to ensure compliance with budgetary laws, detect
8 irregularities, and flag inconsistencies for oversight review, without substituting or
9 interfering with lawful approval procedures.

10 (f) Security and Resilience – The system shall employ encryption, redundancy,
11 access controls, and disaster recovery protocols that comply with international
12 cybersecurity standards.

13 (g) Interoperability and Open Standards – The CADENA shall adopt open-
14 source, technology-neutral frameworks and ensure compatibility with existing and
15 future government information systems. It shall be designed for integration with the
16 eGov PH Portal, the eGov Super App, and other national digital platforms to allow
17 seamless data exchange, interoperability, and unified public access. The CADENA shall
18 likewise be accessible to the general public through its own portal and/or other
19 government portals to promote ease of use, transparency, and citizen engagement.

20 (h) Auditability – The system shall maintain verifiable activity logs accessible to
21 the COA and other public auditors and civic society organizations duly authorized by
22 the NBTAC for post-factum review, without exposing personal or security-sensitive
23 information on public endpoints.

24 (i) Citizen Feedback and Participation – The CADENA shall include real-time
25 channels for citizens and civil society organizations to report, track, and receive
26 acknowledgment of verified discrepancies or irregularities in published data. Each
27 report shall be logged, traceable, and subject to timely resolution by the concerned
28 agency.

29 (j) Scalability and Performance – The system shall be designed to handle high
30 transaction volumes, ensure continuity of operations during peak usage, and include
31 forward-looking capacity planning sufficient to accommodate at least ten (10) years
32 of projected data growth and system demand.

1 (k) Outcome-based Metrics – The system shall include performance dashboards
2 linking budget disbursements to outputs and outcomes, allowing public tracking of
3 agency performance and corrective actions.

4 *Sec. 9. Data Sovereignty and Custodianship.* – All fiscal data collected and
5 processed under this Act are property of the Filipino people, held in trust by the State.

6 The Department of Information Technology (DICT) shall serve as primary data
7 custodian, responsible for ensuring lawful access, integrity and long-term preservation
8 of such data.

9 The exercise of data sovereignty shall be understood as the State’s control and
10 lawful access over public data through secure and verifiable systems consistent with
11 Philippine jurisdiction and regulatory standards.

12 All hosting and data infrastructure utilized under this Act shall remain under the
13 lawful control, access, and regulatory supervision of the Philippine Government, in
14 accordance with the applicable data governance, cybersecurity, and privacy
15 regulations of DICT and the National Privacy Commission (NPC): Provided, That the
16 State, in coordination with the country having jurisdiction of the data center
17 infrastructure, may establish or designate a Data Embassy during the pilot or initial
18 implementation phases; Provided, further, That full domestic hosting shall be achieved
19 upon nationwide implementation.

20 This provision affirms that Philippine data sovereignty is a non-delegable
21 national function, and that any extraterritorial hosting shall be treated strictly as a
22 contingency measure in support of, not in lieu of, local infrastructure self-sufficiency.

23 All third-party providers, developers and service contractors engaged in the
24 design, operation or maintenance of the CADENA or any component digital system
25 supporting government transactions shall be deemed entities imbued with public
26 interest and thus must follow and comply with the governance standards set by the
27 Security and Exchange Commission’s in accordance with Republic Act No. 11232,
28 otherwise known as the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines.

29 *Sec. 10. National Budget Transparency and Accountability Council (NBTAC).* –
30 There is hereby created a National Budget Transparency and Accountability Council
31 (NBTAC) to oversee the implementation, audit, and continuous improvement of the
32 CADENA and related mechanisms under this Act.

1 The Council shall be composed of:

2 (a) The Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications
3 Technology (DICT), Co-chairperson;

4 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Co-
5 chairperson;

6 (c) The Chairperson of the Commission on Audit (COA), Member;

7 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ), Member;

8 (e) The Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF); and

9 (e) Four (4) citizen representatives, to be appointed by the President upon joint
10 recommendation of the DICT and DBM, through an open and transparent selection
11 process, representing the following:

12 (1) Civil society organizations engaged in budget transparency, fiscal openness,
13 or participatory governance;

14 (2) Academic or research institutions with expertise in public finance, data
15 analytics, or digital governance;

16 (3) The media, particularly those with a track record in investigative journalism,
17 data reporting, or governance advocacy; and

18 (4) The business and technology sector.

19 The citizen members shall serve for a term of three (3) years, without prejudice
20 to reappointment for one (1) additional term.

21 The Council shall meet at least once every quarter or as often as necessary to
22 effectively discharge its functions under this Act. All regular and special meetings shall
23 be conducted in a transparent and publicly accessible manner, subject to the
24 provisions of this Act and applicable laws.

25 A dedicated Program Management Office (PMO) for CADENA implementation
26 shall be established under DICT, adequately staffed with technical, procurement,
27 change management, and project management specialists. It shall also serve as the
28 secretariat for the NBTAC.

29 *Sec. 11. Functions of the National Budget Transparency and Accountability*
30 *Council (NBTAC). –*

31 The NBTAC shall:

- 1 (a) Formulate and approve policies, data standards, interoperability protocols,
2 and governance guidelines for the CADENA;
- 3 (b) Oversee the enforcement of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)
4 of this Act;
- 5 (c) Oversee compliance and performance audits of the system and its
6 accredited independent mirror sites;
- 7 (d) Ensure that all transparency mechanisms remain open-source, secure, and
8 citizen-accessible;
- 9 (e) Issue periodic reports to Congress and the President on the state of budget
10 transparency and recommend improvements;
- 11 (f) Monitor and evaluate the compliance of agencies covered under Section 5
12 of this Act, and issue notice of non-compliance and warning to erring and/or
13 noncomplying public official or employee;
- 14 (g) Initiate investigation, motu proprio or upon receipt of a complaint, and refer
15 the same to the Civil Service Commission or the Office of the Ombudsman, or file
16 cases for violations of this Act;
- 17 (h) Engage relevant stakeholders in consultative and advisory capacities when
18 necessary, without expanding the formal membership of the Council;
- 19 (i) Ensure that all regular and special meetings of the Council are publicly
20 accessible through live streaming and archiving via recognized streaming platforms or
21 government broadcasting channels, except when discussions involve matters of
22 national security or personal data protection, in which case minutes shall still be
23 published in summary form within seven (7) working days; and
- 24 (j) Perform such other functions necessary to carry out the provisions of this
25 Act.

26 *Sec. 12. Implementation Timeline.* – The establishment and operationalization
27 of CADENA shall be undertaken in phases, ensuring that transparency mechanisms
28 are rolled out in a manner consistent with agency readiness, data integrity, and fiscal
29 process priorities, as follows:

- 30 (a) Phase 1 – Immediate Disclosure through Agency Websites. Within nine (9)
31 months from the effectivity of this Act, all National Government departments, bureaus,
32 offices, agencies, and instrumentalities shall record and publish in their respective

1 official websites all public documents referred to under Section 5 of this Act: Provided,
2 that during this phase, the publication requirement for Infrastructure and
3 Procurement-Related Documents under Section 5(d) shall apply only to projects or
4 contracts with an approved cost exceeding Two Million Pesos (₱2,000,000.00).

5 All published documents shall be in digitally structured format, searchable, and
6 officially certified. All agency disclosure systems shall adopt interoperable formats to
7 facilitate continuity and integration.

8 (b) Phase 2 – Integration with Top Spending Agencies. Within twenty four (24)
9 months from the effectivity of this Act, CADENA shall be deployed and fully integrated
10 with the financial management, accounting, and procurement systems of top-
11 spending agencies identified by the NBTAC, including but not limited to the
12 Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Public Works and Highways
13 (DPWH), Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local
14 Government (DILG), and the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

15 During this phase, these agencies shall record and publish all documents
16 enumerated under Section 5 in open-source, interoperable, tamper-resistant, and in
17 structured digital format, including all Infrastructure and Procurement-Related
18 Documents under Section 5(d), regardless of project cost, through CADENA.

19 The DICT, in coordination with the National Privacy Commission (NPC), shall
20 ensure that privacy-impact assessments, cybersecurity protocols, and data-
21 classification standards are in place prior to full deployment of CADENA within these
22 agencies.

23 (c) Phase 3 – Full Government-Wide Implementation. Within three (3) years
24 from the effectivity of this Act, CADENA shall be expanded to cover all other national
25 government agencies, government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and
26 their subsidiaries. All National Government departments, agencies, GOCCs, and other
27 covered entities shall fully comply with the disclosure requirements under Section 5,
28 through CADENA, including the disclosure of all Infrastructure and Procurement-
29 Related Documents under section 5(d) of this act for all projects, regardless of amount
30 or classification. Nothing in this Section shall preclude any department, agency, or
31 government-owned or -controlled corporation from complying with the requirements

1 of this Act ahead of schedule or from undertaking parallel implementation of
2 succeeding phases.

3 Sec. 13. *Capacity-Building and Technical Support.* – During the initial
4 implementation period, the DICT shall provide capacity-building programs, systems
5 integration assistance, and technical support to ensure the readiness of all covered
6 entities for full adoption of CADENA.

7 DICT, DBM, and DILG may provide technical assistance, shared hosting
8 infrastructure, and training to Local Government Units (LGUs) that voluntarily adopt
9 the CADENA or develop similar systems.

10 Sec. 14. *Progress Reports.* – The DICT shall submit to the Joint Congressional
11 Oversight Committee (JCOC) a written progress report within sixty (60) working days
12 after the conclusion of each implementation phase of this Act.

13 The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

14 (a) Agency Compliance Levels – The percentage of required documents and
15 structured digital records disclosed by covered entities within prescribed timelines;

16 (b) System Performance – Metrics on the CADENA uptime, posting speed,
17 interoperability, and cybersecurity safeguards, including results of independent audits
18 conducted under this Act;

19 (c) Citizen Access and Participation – Data on unique users, frequency of public
20 access, number of downloads, citizen feedback submissions, and government
21 response actions;

22 (d) Governance and Oversight Metrics – Reports on NBTAC activities, meetings,
23 and decisions relating to budget transparency, data integrity, and open-source
24 collaboration;

25 (e) Challenges Encountered – Technical, institutional, budgetary, or legal
26 barriers to compliance, and recommended solutions; and

27 (f) Recommendations – Proposed measures to strengthen transparency,
28 accountability, data security, and citizen engagement.

29 All progress reports and accompanying datasets shall be published in open,
30 structured digital formats through the CADENA, mirrored by accredited independent
31 institutions and civil-society partners for public verification and long-term archival.

1 Sec. 15. *Evidentiary Value of CADENA Records.* – All records, data, and
2 transactions stored in CADENA shall be considered *prima facie* evidence of the facts
3 stated therein and shall be admissible in all judicial, quasi-judicial, and administrative
4 proceedings without further proof of authenticity, provided that the record:

5 (a) Bears a digital timestamp;

6 (b) Is cryptographically signed or verified through the digital portal; and

7 (c) Has not been altered without authorization, as verified by CADENA's
8 integrity controls.

9 CADENA records officially obtained from the government portal shall be
10 deemed self-authenticating and shall not require the testimony of a custodian or other
11 foundational witness for admission in evidence.

12 Sec. 16. *Administrative Penalties.* – Any public official or employee who
13 performs or causes the performance of the following acts shall be liable:

14 a) Failure to disclose the required public budget data within seven (7) working
15 days from the date of approval, official issuance, receipt by the concerned agency, or
16 completion or generation of the document or work, whichever is applicable; and

17 b) Issuance, approval, or implementation of policies, rules and regulations that
18 are manifestly contrary or intended to circumvent the provisions of this Act, or
19 obstructs or interferes with the publication, audit, or verification of information under
20 CADENA.

21 Any violation of the preceding actions shall warrant the following penalties and
22 liabilities:

23 a) First Offense. Administrative penalty of reprimand or up to six (6) months
24 suspension from the service.

25 b) Second offense. Administrative penalty of dismissal from the service and
26 perpetual disqualification from holding office.

27 In cases where no specific officer, employee, or unit is designated as
28 responsible for the submission, publication, or safekeeping of documents required
29 under this Act, the Head of the Procuring Entity shall be presumed responsible and
30 held administratively liable under applicable laws.

1 Non-compliance detected through CADENA shall trigger automatic referral to
2 the Civil Service Commission and the Ombudsman. Quarterly compliance dashboards
3 shall be publicly displayed.

4 *Sec. 17. Penal Provisions. –*

5 (a) Any public official, employee, private individual or entity who commits any
6 of the following shall be liable:

7 i) Fails to upload, disclose, or publish the required public budget data within
8 thirty (30) working days, without justifiable cause, from the date of approval, official
9 issuance, receipt by the concerned agency, or completion or generation of the
10 document or work, whichever is applicable;

11 ii) Knowingly publishes false, or misleading information to simulate compliance
12 with this Act; or

13 iii) Willfully denies, conceals the existence of, or destroys or causes to be
14 destroyed, information and/or any document mandated for disclosure under this Act.

15 Any violation of the preceding actions shall be meted out with the penalty of
16 imprisonment ranging from six (6) years and one (1) day to not more than fifteen (15)
17 years and a fine of up to Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00).

18 (b) If it is established that such act was committed to conceal or facilitate fraud,
19 graft, or corruption involving public funds or property, the public officer or employee
20 shall be liable as a principal or co-conspirator to crimes punishable under Republic Act
21 No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and Republic Act No. 7080 or the
22 Anti-Plunder Act; and

23 (c) Any private individual or entity who knowingly induces or causes the
24 commission of the foregoing acts shall be liable as principal by inducement in the
25 prosecution of public officials or employees under this section.

26 Criminal liability shall also be incurred through the commission of bribery,
27 extortion, or when the violation was done maliciously and deliberately to solicit favor
28 in cash or in kind. In such cases, the pertinent provisions of the Revised Penal Code
29 and other special laws shall apply.

30 *Sec. 18. Administrative Jurisdiction. –* The administrative jurisdiction on any
31 violation of the provisions of this Act shall be vested in either the Civil Service

1 Commission, or the Office of the Ombudsman as determined by appropriate laws and
2 issuances.

3 Sec. 19. *Civil and Criminal Liability, Not Barred.* – The finding of administrative
4 liability under this Act shall not be a bar to the filing of criminal, civil or other related
5 charges under existing laws arising from the same act or omission as herein
6 enumerated.

7 Sec. 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within sixty (60) days
8 from the effectivity of this Act, DICT, in coordination with DBM, COA, the DOJ, and
9 other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for
10 the effective implementation of this Act. The formulation of the IRR shall be
11 undertaken in consultation with representatives from civil society organizations, the
12 academe, media, and relevant industry stakeholders.

13 Sec. 21. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC).* – Upon the
14 effectivity of this Act, the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) is hereby
15 constituted. The JCOC shall be composed of eight (8) members with the Chairpersons
16 of the Committee on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of
17 Representatives as Co-Chairpersons; Chairpersons of the Committee on Finance of the
18 Senate and Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives as
19 members; and two (2) members from each House to be designated by the Senate
20 President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively.

21 The JCOC shall monitor the effective implementation of this Act, recommend
22 the necessary remedial or administrative measures, and perform such other duties
23 and functions as may be necessary to attain the objectives of this Act.

24 Sec. 22. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out this Act shall be
25 charged against the current appropriations of DICT for digital-governance and
26 transparency programs. Subsequent funding requirements shall be included in the
27 annual General Appropriations Act.

28 Sec. 23. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared
29 unconstitutional, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

30 Sec. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, and regulations inconsistent
31 herewith are repealed or modified accordingly.

1 Sec. 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication
2 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,