



SENATE

S. No. 1506

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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
2 “CADENA Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the
4 State to uphold transparency, accountability, and good
5 governance in the management and disbursement of public

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

12 In pursuit of a forward-looking, resilient, and future-
13 ready governance framework, the State shall apply futures
14 thinking and anticipatory governance in the design,
15 implementation, and continuous enhancement of digital
16 budget disclosure systems. This approach ensures
17 adaptability to emerging technologies, long-term risk,
18 evolving public needs, and potential societal impacts.

1 SEC. 3. *Definition of terms.* – As used in this Act:

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

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

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

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

17 (e) *Data Integrity* refers to the accuracy, consistency,
18 and reliability of data throughout its life-cycle, ensuring

1 that public fiscal information has not been altered or
2 tampered with after its creation;

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

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

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

17 (i) *Digital Signature* refers to an electronic method of
18 authentication using encryption or cryptographic
19 algorithms that validates the identity of the sender or

1 author of a digital record and ensures non-repudiation of
2 published transactions;

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

9 (k) *Distributed Ledger Technology* refers to a shared
10 database architecture that records transactions across
11 multiple nodes or locations to ensure verifiability and
12 resistance to tampering;

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

17 (m) *Mirror Site* refers to an accredited independent
18 copy or parallel instance of the CADENA, maintained by
19 non-government organizations, media institutions, or

1 universities to provide redundancy, tamper-resistant, and
2 continuous public access to official data;

3 (n) *Open Application Programming Interface (API)*
4 refers to a publicly documented software interface that
5 allows authorized users, systems, or developers to access,
6 retrieve, or submit data from the CADENA under defined
7 security, privacy, and access controls:

8 (o) *Open-source* refers to software or technology whose
9 source code is publicly accessible, allowing anyone to
10 inspect, use, modify, and distribute it:

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

17 (q) *Public Budget Data* refers to all information,
18 documents, datasets, and transaction records generated or
19 required to be disclosed under Section 5 of this Act, covering all

1 phases of the national budget cycle from preparation and
2 legislation to execution and accountability;

3 (r) *Record and Publish* refers to the process of
4 uploading or encoding, certifying, and making public budget
5 data available through the official disclosure platform
6 prescribed under this Act, in accordance with the
7 timeframes, formats, and authentication standards
8 provided in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR);

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

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

17 (u) *Structured Digital Format* refers to a machine-
18 readable data format that complies with open data
19 standards, such as CSV, JSON, or XML and allows

1 automated processing, analysis, and interoperability among
2 information systems;

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

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

1 use of public funds across all phases of the national budget
2 cycle.

3 SEC. 4. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all National
4 Government departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and
5 other instrumentalities, including government-owned or-
6 controlled corporations (GOCCs), and their subsidiaries.

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

12 Local government units (LGUs) are not covered by
13 this Act but are encouraged to adopt similar mechanisms
14 consistent with the principles and standards established
15 under this Act, to strengthen fiscal transparency,
16 participatory governance, and public accountability at the
17 local level.

18 SEC. 5. *Disclosure of Public Budget Data.* – All
19 National Government entities are hereby mandated to

1 record and publish in the CADENA the data and
 2 information found in every document relating to the
 3 national government budget process to facilitate public
 4 scrutiny and ensure transparency in budget planning and
 5 preparation, budget legislation and authorization, budget
 6 execution and fund management, procurement process and
 7 contract management, and revenue collection and
 8 generation. For this purpose, the data from the following
 9 documents and such other documents as may be determined
 10 by the National Budget Transparency and Accountability
 11 Council (NBTAC) shall be disclosed and published in
 12 accordance with this Act:

Type of Document	Responsible Agency
(a) Budget Preparation Documents	
(1) Budget Call	Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
(2) All versions of Budget Preparation Forms submitted by agencies through the Online Submission of Budget Proposal (OSBP) Portal	Concerned line agencies, consolidated by DBM

1	(3) National Expenditure	DBM
2	Program (NEP)	
3	(4) Budget of Expenditures and	DBM
4	Sources of Financing (BESF)	
5	(5) President's Budget Message	DBM / Office of the
6		President
7	(b) Budget Legislation Documents	
8	(1) General Appropriations Bill	House of Representatives
9	(GAB) versions	(HOR) and Senate of the
10		Philippines (Senate)
11	(2) Committee Reports	HOR and Senate
12	(3) Individual, Committee, and	HOR and Senate
13	Bicameral Amendments with	
14	identified proponents	
15	(4) Bicameral Conference	HOR and Senate
16	Committee Report	
17	(5) President's Veto Message	DBM / Office of the
18		President
19	(6) General Appropriations Act	DBM
20	(GAA)	
21	(c) Budget Execution and Fund Release Documents	
22	(1) Agency-level Budget	Concerned agencies
23	Execution Documents	
24	(2) National Budget Circular	DBM
25	(NBC) with Agency Budget	
26	Matrix (ABM)	

1	(3) Allotment Release Orders	DBM
2	(SAROs)	
3	(4) Notices of Cash Allocation	DBM
4	(NCAs)	
5	(5) Other Fund Release	DBM/Bureau of Treasury
6	Documents (including Cash	(BTr)
7	Disbursement Ceilings (COCs).	
8	Multi-Year Contractual	
9	Authority (MYCA), and other	
10	similar issuances)	
11	(6) Fund Release Receipts	Concerned agencies
12	(7) Registry of Allotments,	Concerned agencies
13	Obligations, and Disbursements	
14	(RAOD)	
15	(8) Disbursement Vouchers	Concerned agencies
16	(9) Fund Utilization Reports	Concerned agencies/DBM
17	(d) Infrastructure and Procurement-Related Documents	
18	(1) Program of Works	Procuring entities
19	(2) Bill of Quantities	Procuring entities
20	(3) Detailed Unit Price Analysis	Procuring entities
21	(4) Bid Announcements and	Procuring entities
22	Invitations to Bid	
23	(5) Request for Expressions of	Procuring entities
24	Interest	
25	(6) Technical and Financial	Procuring entities
26	Evaluation	
27	(7) Abstract of Bids	Procuring entities

1	(8) Project eligibility documents,	Procuring entities
2	including beneficial ownership	
3	disclosures, certifications of	
4	good standing, permits, and	
5	clearances	
6	(9) Notices of Award and	Procuring entities
7	Notices to Proceed	
8	(10) Contracts and Purchase	Procuring entities
9	Orders	
10	(11) Performance and Warranty	Procuring entities
11	Security Documents	
12	(12) Advanced	Procuring entities
13	Payment/Mobilization Fee	
14	Receipt	
15	(13) Milestone Billings and	Procuring entities
16	Progress Billings	
17	(14) Inspection and Acceptance	Procuring entities
18	Reports	
19	(15) Delivery Receipts	Procuring entities
20	(16) Disbursement Vouchers	Procuring entities
21	and Completion Certificates	
22	(17) Other related documents	As prescribed in the IRR
23	pursuant to Republic Act No.	
24	12009 or the New Government	
25	Procurement Act	
26	(e) Budget Accountability Documents	

1	(1) Agency Performance Review	DBM/Concerned agencies
2	Reports and Budget and	
3	Financial Accountability Forms	
4	(BFARs)	
5	(2) Agency Financial Statements	Concerned agencies/ COA
6	(3) COA Annual Audit Reports	COA
7	(4) Audit Observation	COA
8	Memorandums	
9	(5) Agency Action Plan and	Concerned agencies/ COA
10	Status of Implementation	
11	(AAPSI)	
12	(6) Statement of Appropriations,	Concerned agencies
13	Allotments, Obligations, and	
14	Disbursements and Balances	
15	(SAAODB)	
16	(7) All Civil Service Commission	Concerned agency
17	(CSC) – DBM – COA Circulars	CSC/DBM/COA
18	(8) Records of oversight	Congress/COA/
19	hearings, performance audits,	Concerned agencies
20	and corrective action reports	

21 The NBTAC may determine additional documents for
22 which other public budget data should be disclosed under
23 this Act, without prejudice to other disclosures necessary to

1 promote transparency, accountability, and citizen
2 participation in the budget process.

3 Data and information required to be disclosed under
4 this section, as derived from the documents enumerated
5 herein, shall hereafter be referred to as “Public Budget
6 Data”. All Public Budget Data shall be digitally certified
7 and presented in a structured digital format, in accordance
8 with the standards to be prescribed by the NBTAC, ensuring
9 that every allocation, transaction, or transfer is easily
10 searchable, traceable, and analyzable by the public.

11 For each type of listed document, the IRR shall clearly
12 identify the responsible agency or office, as well as the
13 designated accountable officer, for the disclosure of public
14 budget data under this Act. For procurement-related
15 documents under subsection(d), the designated accountable
16 officer shall be the Head of the Procuring Entity (HoPE).

17 All required public budget data in the listed documents
18 shall be disclosed by the designated accountable officer
19 within seven (7) working days from the date of approval.

1 official issuance, receipt of the concerned agency,
2 completion, or generation of the document, whichever is
3 applicable. All corrections or updates shall be versioned in a
4 manner that retains previous entries to ensure data
5 traceability, auditability, and accountability.

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

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

16 The disclosure requirement under this Act shall not
17 apply to specific data fields within documents whose
18 publication would compromise national defense or security,
19 or violate the Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy

1 Act of 2012, as determined by the NBTAC in consultation
2 with the National Privacy Commission and other
3 appropriate agencies: *Provided*, That the provisions of
4 Republic Act No. 10173, shall not be invoked to restrict or
5 delay the disclosure of public budget data, as public
6 expenditure, contract, and supplier information shall not be
7 deemed personal data.

8 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish,
9 restrict, or otherwise limit existing transparency and
10 disclosure obligations under other laws, rules, and
11 regulations.

12 SEC. 6. *Data Quality Standards*. – The NBTAC shall
13 determine data quality, formatting, and metadata
14 standards for the CADENA to ensure completeness,
15 consistency, searchability, and interoperability across
16 agencies, enabling cross-referencing through standard
17 coding systems such as the UACS.

18 The IRR shall ensure that the CADENA aligns with
19 the standards of existing transparency systems of the DBM.

1 COA, and other agencies toward a unified, interoperable,
2 and open public financial data framework.

3 SEC. 7. *Establishment of the CADENA.* – The CADENA
4 shall serve as the official and publicly accessible portal for
5 all public budget data required under this Act.

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

13 The CADENA shall be developed using distributed
14 ledger technology including, but not limited to, blockchain,
15 secure data integrity technology, or other technology that
16 conforms with the standards and features prescribed under
17 Section 8 of this Act. The NBTAC shall, at intervals of not
18 more than three (3) years, review and recommend the
19 adoption of alternative or emerging technologies.

1 The CADENA shall interface with existing
2 government systems including, but not limited to, the
3 Integrated Financial Management Information System
4 (IFMIS), Budget and Treasury Management System
5 (BTMS), Philippine Government Electronic Procurement
6 System (PhilGEPS), and other platforms through
7 standardized Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) or
8 newer technologies. These systems shall maintain parallel
9 operation during transition periods as specified by the
10 NBTAC.

11 SEC. 8. *Core Features of the CADENA.* – The CADENA
12 shall be designed to promote transparency and
13 accountability in all phases of the national budget cycle. It
14 shall, at a minimum, have the following features:

15 (a) Data Integrity and Authenticity – All published
16 records shall bear digital and non-repudiable signatures,
17 timestamps, and metadata ensuring verifiable origin and
18 traceability.

1 (b) Transparency and Accessibility – All budget
2 records and reports shall be made available through public
3 dashboards and open APIs in structured digital formats for
4 real-time access, visualization, and reuse, subject to tiered
5 access controls to protect personal data and privileged
6 information.

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

14 (d) Traceability Across the Budget Cycle – The system
15 shall maintain a structured audit trail linking each stage of
16 the budget process from call and approval to release,
17 procurement, and liquidation, identifying the responsible
18 committee or agency at each decision point, while observing
19 data minimization and purpose limitation under applicable

1 privacy laws. The CADENA shall display all budget records
2 without alteration and shall ensure that all documents,
3 dashboards, public data sets, and APIs reflect the complete
4 national budget cycle.

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

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

15 (g) Interoperability and Open Standards – The
16 CADENA shall adopt open-source, technology-neutral
17 frameworks and ensure compatibility with existing and
18 future government information systems. It shall be
19 designed for integration with other fully secured national

1 digital platforms to allow seamless data exchange.
2 interoperability, and unified public access. The CADENA
3 shall likewise be accessible to the general public through its
4 own portal and/or other government portals to promote ease
5 of use, transparency, and citizen engagement.

6 (h) Auditability – The system shall maintain verifiable
7 activity logs accessible to the COA and other public auditors
8 and civil society organizations duly authorized by the
9 NBTAC for post-factum review, without exposing personal
10 or security-sensitive information on public endpoints.

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

17 (j) Scalability and Performance – The system shall be
18 designed to handle high transaction volumes, ensure
19 continuity of operations during peak usage, and include

1 forward-looking capacity planning sufficient to
2 accommodate at least ten (10) years of projected data growth
3 and system demand.

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

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

11 The Department of Information and Communications
12 Technology (DICT) shall serve as primary data custodian,
13 responsible for ensuring lawful access, integrity and long-
14 term preservation of such data.

15 The exercise of data sovereignty shall be understood as
16 the State's control and lawful access over public data
17 through secure and verifiable systems consistent with
18 Philippine jurisdiction and regulatory standards.

1 All hosting and data infrastructure utilized under this
2 Act shall remain under the lawful control, access, and
3 regulatory supervision of the Philippine Government, in
4 accordance with the applicable data governance,
5 cybersecurity, and privacy regulations of DICT and the
6 National Privacy Commission (NPC): *Provided*, That the
7 State, in coordination with the country having jurisdiction
8 over the data center infrastructure, may establish or
9 designate a Data Embassy during the pilot or initial
10 implementation phases: *Provided, further*, That full
11 domestic hosting shall be achieved upon nationwide
12 implementation.

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

18 All third-party providers, developers, and service
19 contractors engaged in the design, operation or maintenance

1 of the CADENA or any component digital system supporting
2 government transactions shall be deemed entities imbued
3 with public interest and must comply with the governance
4 standards set by the Securities and Exchange Commission
5 in accordance with Republic Act No. 11232, or the “Revised
6 Corporation Code of the Philippines”.

7 SEC. 10. *National Budget Transparency and*
8 *Accountability Council.* – There is hereby created a NBTAC
9 to oversee the implementation, audit, and continuous
10 improvement of the CADENA and related mechanisms
11 under this Act.

12 The NBTAC shall be composed of:

13 (a) The Secretary of the DICT, Co-chairperson;

14 (b) The Secretary of the DBM, Co-chairperson;

15 (c) The Chairperson of the COA, Member;

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

18 (e) The Secretary of the DOF, Member; and

1 (f) Four (4) citizen representatives, to be appointed by
2 the President upon joint recommendation of the DICT and
3 DBM, through an open and transparent selection process,
4 representing the following:

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

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

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

12 (4) The business and technology sector.

13 The citizen members shall serve for a term of three (3)
14 years, and may be reappointed for one (1) additional term.

15 The NBTAC shall meet at least once every quarter or
16 as often as necessary to effectively discharge its functions
17 under this Act. All regular and special meetings shall be
18 conducted in a transparent and publicly accessible manner,
19 subject to the provisions of this Act and applicable laws.

1 A dedicated Program Management Office (PMO) for
2 CADENA implementation shall be established under DICT,
3 adequately staffed with technical, procurement, change
4 management, and project management specialists. It shall
5 also serve as the secretariat for the NBTAC.

6 SEC. 11. *Functions of the NBTAC.* – It shall:

7 (a) Formulate and approve policies, data standards,
8 interoperability protocols, and governance guidelines for the
9 CADENA:

10 (b) Oversee the IRR of this Act;

11 (c) Oversee compliance and performance audits of the
12 system and its accredited independent mirror sites;

13 (d) Ensure that all transparency mechanisms remain
14 open-source, secure, and citizen-accessible;

15 (e) Issue periodic reports to Congress and the
16 President on the state of budget transparency and
17 recommend improvements:

1 (f) Monitor and evaluate the compliance of agencies
2 covered under Section 5 of this Act, and issue notices of
3 non-compliance and warning to an erring and/or
4 noncomplying public official or employee:

5 (g) Initiate investigation, *motu proprio* or upon receipt
6 of a complaint, and refer the same to the CSC or the Office
7 of the Ombudsman, or file cases for violations of this Act;

8 (h) Engage relevant stakeholders in consultative and
9 advisory capacities, when necessary, without expanding the
10 formal membership of the NBTAC;

11 (i) Ensure that all regular and special meetings of the
12 NBTAC are publicly accessible through live streaming and
13 archiving via recognized streaming platforms or
14 government broadcasting channels, except when
15 discussions involve matters of national security or
16 personal data protection, in which case minutes shall still
17 be published in summary form within seven (7)
18 working days; and

1 (j) Perform such other functions necessary to carry out
2 the provisions of this Act.

3 SEC. 12. *Implementation Timeline.* – The
4 establishment and operationalization of CADENA shall be
5 in phases, ensuring that transparency mechanisms are
6 rolled out in a manner consistent with agency readiness,
7 data integrity, and fiscal process priorities, as follows:

8 (a) Phase 1 – Immediate Disclosure through Agency
9 Websites. Within nine (9) months from the effectivity of this
10 Act, all National Government departments, bureaus, offices,
11 agencies, and instrumentalities shall record and publish in
12 their respective official websites all public documents
13 referred to under Section 5 of this Act: *Provided, That*
14 during this phase, the publication requirement for
15 Infrastructure and Procurement-Related Documents under
16 Section 5(d) shall apply only to projects or contracts with an
17 approved cost exceeding Two million pesos (₱2,000,000).

18 All published documents shall be in digitally
19 structured format, searchable, and officially certified. All

1 agency disclosure systems shall adopt interoperable formats
2 to facilitate continuity and integration.

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

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

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

6 (c) Phase 3 – Full Government-Wide Implementation.
7 Within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, the
8 CADENA shall be expanded to cover all other national
9 government agencies, GOCCs, and their subsidiaries. All
10 National Government departments, agencies, GOCCs, and
11 other covered entities shall fully comply with the disclosure
12 requirements under Section 5, through CADENA, including
13 the disclosure of all Infrastructure and Procurement-
14 Related Documents under Section 5(d) of this Act for all
15 projects, regardless of amount or classification. Nothing in
16 this section shall preclude any department, agency, or
17 GOCC from complying with the requirements of this Act
18 ahead of schedule or from undertaking parallel
19 implementation of succeeding phases.

1 SEC. 13. *Capacity-Building and Technical Support.* –

2 During the initial implementation period, the DICT shall
3 provide capacity-building programs, systems integration
4 assistance, and technical support to ensure the readiness of
5 all covered entities for full adoption of the CADENA.

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

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

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

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

18 (b) *System Performance – Metrics on the CADENA*
19 uptime, posting speed, interoperability, and cybersecurity

1 safeguards, including results of independent audits
2 conducted under this Act;

3 (c) Citizen Access and Participation – Data on unique
4 users, frequency of public access, number of downloads,
5 citizen feedback submissions, and government response
6 actions;

7 (d) Governance and Oversight Metrics – Reports on
8 NBTAC activities, meetings, and decisions relating to
9 budget transparency, data integrity, and open-source
10 collaboration;

11 (e) Challenges Encountered – Technical, institutional,
12 budgetary, or legal barriers to compliance, and
13 recommended solutions: and

14 (f) Recommendations – Proposed measures to
15 strengthen transparency, accountability, data security, and
16 citizen engagement.

17 All progress reports and accompanying datasets shall
18 be published in open, structured digital formats through the
19 CADENA, mirrored by accredited independent institutions

1 and civil-society partners for public verification and long-
2 term archival.

3 SEC. 15. *Evidentiary Value of CADENA Records.* – All
4 records, data, and transactions stored in CADENA shall be
5 considered *prima facie* evidence of the facts stated therein
6 and shall be admissible in all judicial, quasi-judicial, and
7 administrative proceedings: *Provided*, That the record:

8 (a) Bears a digital timestamp;

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

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

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

16 (a) Failure to disclose the required public budget data
17 within seven (7) working days from the date of approval.
18 official issuance, receipt by the concerned agency, or

1 completion or generation of the document or work,
2 whichever is applicable; and

3 (b) Issuance, approval, or implementation of policies,
4 rules and regulations that are manifestly contrary or
5 intended to circumvent the provisions of this Act, or
6 obstructs or interferes with the publication, audit, or
7 verification of information under CADENA.

8 Any violation of the preceding actions shall warrant
9 the following penalties and liabilities:

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

12 (b) Second offense. Administrative penalty of dismissal
13 from the service and perpetual disqualification from holding
14 office.

15 In cases where no specific officer, employee, or unit is
16 designated as responsible for the submission, publication, or
17 safekeeping of documents required under this Act, the HoPE
18 shall be presumed responsible and held administratively
19 liable under applicable laws.

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

5 SEC. 17. *Penal Provisions.* –

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

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

13 (2) Knowingly publishes false, or misleading
14 information to simulate compliance with this Act: or

15 (3) Willfully denies, conceals the existence of, or destroys or
16 causes to be destroyed, information and/or any document
17 mandated for disclosure under this Act.

18 Any violation of the preceding actions shall be meted
19 out with the penalty of imprisonment ranging from six (6)

1 years and one (1) day to not more than fifteen (15) years and
2 a fine of up to Three million pesos (P3,000,000).

3 (b) If such act was committed to conceal or facilitate
4 fraud, graft, or corruption involving public funds or
5 property, the public officer or employee shall be liable as a
6 principal or co-conspirator to crimes punishable under
7 Republic Act No. 3019 or the "Anti-Graft and Corrupt
8 Practices Act" and Republic Act No. 7080 or the
9 "Anti-Plunder Act": and

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

14 Criminal liability shall also be incurred through
15 bribery, extortion, or malicious and deliberate solicitation of
16 favors in cash or in kind. In such cases, the pertinent
17 provisions of the Revised Penal Code and other special laws
18 shall apply.

1 SEC. 18. *Administrative Jurisdiction.* – The
2 administrative jurisdiction on any violation of the
3 provisions of this Act shall be vested in either the CSC, or
4 the Office of the Ombudsman as determined by appropriate
5 laws and issuances.

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

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

1 SEC. 21. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* –
2 The JCOC is hereby constituted, to
3 be composed of eight (8) members with the Chairpersons of
4 the Committee on Science and Technology of the Senate and
5 Committee on Information and Communications
6 Technology of the House of Representatives as Co-
7 Chairpersons; Chairpersons of the Committee on Finance of
8 the Senate and Committee on Appropriations of the House
9 of Representatives as members; and two (2) members from
10 each House to be designated by the Senate President and
11 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively.

12 The JCOC shall monitor the effective implementation
13 of this Act, recommend the necessary remedial or
14 administrative measures, and perform such other duties
15 and functions as may be necessary to attain the objectives
16 of this Act.

17 SEC. 22. *Appropriations.* – To guarantee the
18 implementation of the provisions of this Act, a line item for
19 digital-governance and transparency programs shall be

1 included in the general appropriations of the Department of
2 Information and Communications Technology. Subsequent
3 funding requirements shall be included in the annual
4 General Appropriations Act.

5 SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
6 Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall
7 remain in full force and effect.

8 SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, and
9 regulations inconsistent herewith are repealed or modified
10 accordingly.

11 SEC. 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after
12 fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official*
13 *Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
14 circulation.

Approved,