



Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. 22



---

**Introduced by Representative NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA**

---

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

To say that access to the internet plays a crucial role in driving innovation, promoting social development, and supporting economic growth now borders on the cliché. The stability and availability of internet services are undeniably essential for enhancing both government operations and private sector efficiency, contributing significantly to the effective delivery of services. This was most evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the nation became heavily reliant on internet connectivity for daily activities. Even in 2022, many sectors, particularly education and the workforce, continue to rely on work-from-home arrangements, underscoring the need for reliable and uninterrupted internet access.

Despite this, several obstacles continue to hinder the average Filipino's access to affordable and dependable internet services. Chief among these challenges is the limited number of internet service providers in the country, resulting in demand surpassing supply. Consequently, internet subscription plans remain costly and often offer subpar speeds. Although certain policy and institutional measures have already been implemented to address these issues, there remains a pressing need to further enhance such efforts to ensure that all Filipinos—especially those in unserved and underserved areas—can access affordable internet services.

At present, however, the government imposes substantial spectrum user fees (SUF) on telecommunications companies utilizing Wi-Fi technologies, despite the principle that SUFs should only apply to operators using exclusively licensed frequencies granted by the government. This regulatory approach hampers telcos from offering more competitive rates or reducing the cost of internet subscriptions. While the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has attempted to address the matter through the issuance of Memorandum Circular No. 002-09-2021 on September 22, 2021—which lowered SUFs for certain radio frequency bands—current market realities suggest that the complete removal of SUFs for Wi-Fi is necessary to further liberalize internet access in the country.

The proposed measure seeks to align Philippine regulatory policy with international best practices, particularly those recommended by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) of the United Nations, which advocates for a zero SUF policy on Wi-Fi. Notably, countries such as the United States, Australia, Singapore, South Korea, and Indonesia have already adopted this approach. Enacting this measure into law would thus position the Philippines alongside global leaders in fostering equitable and expansive internet connectivity.

**NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA**  
Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> District of Northern Samar



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. 22

---

**Introduced by Representative NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA**

---

1                           **"AN ACT**  
2                           **PROVIDING FOR CHEAPER AND MORE ACCESSIBLE INTERNET FOR ALL"**  
3

4                           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Sana All May Internet Act*".  
5

6                           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the vital role of telecommunication in  
7 nation building and as such, it shall implement measures to provide communication standards suitable  
8 to the needs and aspirations of the nation.  
9

10                          As a scarce public resource, the State shall manage the use of the radio frequency spectrum in  
11 the interest of the public and in accordance with international agreements and conventions to which the  
12 Philippines is a signatory. Towards this end, the government shall allocate the radio frequency spectrum  
13 to promote the adoption of appropriate technologies and best practices, an interference-free  
14 environment, and the highest service standards and shall assign the radio frequency spectrum to service  
15 providers capable of efficiently and effectively using it to meet public demand for telecommunications  
16 and data transmission services.  
17

18                          **SEC. 3. Objectives.** – This Act aims to:  
19

20                          a) Establish a policy and regulation that will reduce to zero the spectrum user fee (SUF) paid  
21 by telecommunications entities to the national government, to enable the proliferation of the Wi-Fi  
22 technology usage and infrastructure development, and eventually lower the cost of delivering  
23 telecommunications services to end users;  
24

25                          b) Promote the acceleration of internet use in the country and the expansion of Wi-Fi technology  
26 and infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas so the poor and underprivileged will have access  
27 to reliable, accessible and affordable connectivity;  
28

29                          c) Encourage and empower the small players in the industry to provide affordable internet  
30 services especially in the unserved and underserved areas; and  
31

32                          d) Adopt a license-free, zero SUF policy in accordance with best international practices, and  
33 protect public interest by limiting the use of outdoor Wi-Fi frequency access points or base stations and  
34 links to the government and duly franchised public telecommunications entities.

35           **SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

- 36
- 37           a) Internet refers to the biggest worldwide global computer network providing a wide  
38           variety of information and communication facilities, consisting of interconnected  
39           networks using standardized communication protocols;
- 40           b) Internet service provider or ISP refers to an entity with or without a franchise, registered  
41           as a value-added service provider with the National Telecommunications Commission  
42           (NTC) and authorized to build, install, operate and maintain a network in order to offer  
43           internet access services to the public for a fee;
- 44           c) Open and unprotected frequency refers to the frequencies at 2.4-2.4835 GHz, 5.150-  
45           5.350 GHz, and 5.470-5.850 GHz. of the radio spectrum. Any frequency outside of  
46           these frequencies is a licensed frequency especially if it is included in the frequencies  
47           listed in the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)  
48           policies and NTC Memorandum Circulars and issuances which are part of the National  
49           Radio Frequency Allocation Table (NRFAT);
- 50           d) Public telecommunications entity or PTE refers to any person, firm, partnership or  
51           corporation, government or private, engaged in the provision of telecommunications  
52           services to the public for a fee;
- 53           e) Radio frequency spectrum refers to the part of the electromagnetic spectrum with  
54           frequencies from 30Hz to 300GHz, used for communications which includes  
55           frequencies for wireless telecommunications technologies such as radio, television, and  
56           radar;
- 57           f) Spectrum user fee (SUF) refers to the fee imposed by the government regulator in the  
58           use of a particular frequency; and
- 59           g) Wi-Fi or Wireless fidelity refers to a type of wireless local access network technology  
60           that is based on the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) wireless  
61           communication standard 802.11 family and uses the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz frequency  
62           band.<sup>3</sup>
- 63

64           **SEC. 5. *Coverage.*** – This Act shall cover Wi-Fi frequencies at 2.4-2.4835 GHz, 5.150-5.350  
65           GHz, and 5.470-5.850 GHz, and any other frequency band that the NTC may deem open and  
66           unprotected after due notice and hearing. This Act shall in no way amend or repeal Republic Act No.  
67           10929, otherwise known as “The Free Internet Access in Public Places Act”.

68           **SEC. 6. *Establishing a Zero Spectrum User Fee.*** – The State through the DICT and the NTC  
69           shall not impose a levy, charge, or collect fees from PTEs and other users for their use of frequencies  
70           as specified in this Act: Provided, That PTEs shall not interfere with each other's Wi-Fi airwaves or  
71           with any licensed radio stations in the course of their operations, thereby effectively establishing a zero  
72           SUF.

73           **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** – Within sixty (60) days from the  
74           effectivity of this Act, the DICT as the lead agency, together with the NTC and representatives from  
75           the telecommunications sector shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
76           implementation of the provisions of this Act.

77           **SEC. 8. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC).*** – There is hereby created a Joint  
78           Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the effective implementation of this Act, recommend  
79           the necessary remedial or administrative measures and perform such other duties and functions as may  
80           be necessary to attain the objectives of this Act.

81           The oversight committee shall be composed of eight (8) members, with the Chairpersons of the  
82           Senate Committee on Public Services and the House of Representatives' Committee on Information  
83           and Communications Technology as Co-Chairpersons. The three (3) members from each House, shall

88 be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively:  
89 *Provided*, That at least one (1) member from each House shall be nominated by their respective Minority  
90 Leaders. The secretariat of the JCOC shall be the existing secretariat personnel of the concerned  
91 Committees of both Houses of Congress.

92       **SEC. 9. *Suppletory Application*.** – The provisions of Republic Act No. 10844 also known as  
93 the “Department of Information and Communications Technology Act of 2015” and other laws  
94 consistent with this Act shall have suppletory application.  
95

96       **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause*.** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or  
97 invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.  
98

99       **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause*.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential  
100 proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
101 repealed, superseded or modified accordingly.  
102

103       **SEC. 12. *Effectivity*.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
104 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*