



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO.: 003-09-2025

**SUBJECT: DECOMMISSIONING OF THIRD GENERATION (3G) AND
SECOND GENERATION (2G) MOBILE NETWORK SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is mandated under Executive Order No. 546 and Republic Act No. 7925 to regulate and supervise telecommunications services in the interest of public welfare, innovation, and national development;

WHEREAS, Section 4(a) of RA No. 7925 provides that a fundamental objective of the government is to develop and maintain a viable, efficient, reliable and universal telecommunication infrastructure using the best available and affordable technologies, as a vital tool to nation building and development;

WHEREAS, Section 4(c) of RA No. 7925, emphasized that radio frequency spectrum is a scarce public resource that shall be administered in the public interest, and emphasizes the efficient and effective allocation of spectrum to service providers capable of meeting public demand through cost-effective and innovative technologies;

WHEREAS, frequencies currently assigned to 2G and 3G mobile technologies can be more efficiently utilized by modern technologies such as Fourth Generation (4G), Fifth Generation (5G) and upcoming Sixth Generation (6G) technology, essential for reducing congestion, and improving the availability and quality of mobile services;

WHEREAS, 4G, 5G and upcoming 6G offer higher data throughput, lower latency, and improved spectral efficiency compared to 2G and 3G technology, enabling robust broadband services;

WHEREAS, despite advancement, 2G and 3G services remain vital most especially in rural and geographically isolated areas where 4G and 5G deployment;

WHEREAS, Regional Development Council (RDC) X Resolution No. 16, series of 2022; RDC Central Visayas Region Resolution No. 41, s. of 2022; and NEDA Board-Regional Development Committee for Mindanao Resolution No. 35, s. of 2022 endorsed the retention of 2G and 3G Cellular Phone Services as the services are the available mobile wireless service and used particularly in rural and isolated areas where 4G and 5G technologies is yet to be deployed;

WHEREAS, local public telecommunications entities (PTEs) have already commenced the decommissioning of 3G services to accelerate the rollout of

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enhanced mobile technologies while ensuring service continuity and minimally disruptive experience for all stakeholders;

WHEREAS, in some jurisdictions worldwide, 3G services have already been decommissioned while retaining 2G services as low power fallback to support voice calls and SMS features;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Circular No. 07-08-2005 provides for the allocation and assignment of 3G radio frequency bands in our administration;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 7925 (Public Telecommunications Policy Act) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, the radio spectrum allocation and assignment shall be subject to review in the interest of public service and in order to keep pace with the development in the wireless technology with the end in view of insuring a wider access to the limited radio spectrum and the use of cost-effective technology;

NOW, THEREFORE, in line with the thrust of the government to promote and facilitate the growth and development of information and communications technology (ICT) throughout the country, and in support of the government's objectives to push the country's socio-economic agenda through ICT and achieving the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICT by all, the National Telecommunications Commission as the Administrator of the radio frequency spectrum in the country hereby promulgates the following guidelines:

Section 1. Decommissioning of 3G Mobile Network Service. All public telecommunications entities (PTEs) offering 3G service shall implement area-specific phased shutdowns with full nationwide switch off to be completed not later than **31 December 2026**.

PTEs shall submit their respective Technical Transition Plan within sixty (60) days from effectivity of this Circular which shall include the following:

- a. Timeline of 3G services shutdown identifying the service areas following this phased implementation:
 - i. Highly urbanized cities and municipalities;
 - ii. First, Second- and Third-Class Municipalities;
 - iii. All remaining 3G service areas
- b. Disposal processes and procedures of decommissioned 3G equipment and associated devices following environmental laws, rules and regulations on proper disposal of these equipment and devices.
- c. Public awareness campaign plans and programs.
- d. Details of consumer migration support that will be affected by the 2G and 3G decommissioning.

Section 2. Consumer Migration Support. To minimize disruption and ensure inclusive access to telecommunications services following the decommissioning of



3G networks, all PTEs shall undertake the following or similar consumer migration support measure:

- a. Implement subsidy schemes or installment plans for consumers currently using 3G only devices. Programs shall prioritize vulnerable sectors including senior citizens, low-income subscribers, and persons with disabilities (PWDs);
- b. Offer free SIM upgrades to registered subscribers;
- c. Establish a toll-free migration helplines and walk-in-centers across regions to provide a real-time assistance and technical guidance;
- d. Maintain an online portal for logging issues, receiving migration-related feedbacks and resolving complaints;

Section 3. Public Awareness Campaign. To ensure timely and comprehensive awareness regarding the 3G network decommissioning and transition support, all PTEs shall implement an inclusive information campaign comprising the following:

- a. Clear, positive framing of the benefits of migration, decommissioning background, and available consumer support;
- b. Use of broadcast and print media to ensure traditional reach with scheduled bulletin and public service announcements. Maximize visibility across social media, websites and other digital platforms.
- c. Collaboration with local government units (LGUs), educators and youth networks as campaign messengers through caravans, online content and other avenue.

PTE shall also participate in NTC-led public information campaign on the 3G network decommissioning.

Section 4. Reportorial Requirement. To ensure policy alignment and effective monitoring of the 3G decommissioning and Technical Transition Plan implementation, PTEs shall submit quarterly compliance report to the Commission, every 5th day of the ensuing month, detailing area-specific decommissioning progress, consumer migration statistics, support program implementation. The NTC shall conduct random and scheduled compliance audit, including field inspection and interoperability testing.

Section 5. Utilization of 3G Assigned Frequencies. Pursuant to the technology neutrality principle under Republic Act 7925, 3G band frequency assignment shall be used to support PTEs' 4G, 5G and future and emerging technologies for its mobile technology deployment, subject to NTC permitting and licensing rules and regulations, and payment of appropriate fees and charges.

Section 6. Decommissioning of 2G Services. The decommissioning of the 2G services shall be implemented/undertaken under a different schedule in recognition of the recommendations of RDC X, RDC Central Visayas Region and the NEDA Board-Regional Development Committee for Mindanao to ensure availability of basic communication service in areas still relying on 2G service.

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Section 7. Type Approval/Type Acceptance Certifications. To complement the orderly decommissioning of 2G and 3G networks, the NTC shall issue a separate guideline addressing the phase-out of mobile devices and equipment that are 2G and 3G capable, such as:

- a. Non-acceptance of applications for Type Approval and Type Acceptance Certificates of devices with exclusive or primary 2G/3G capability within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Circular;
- b. Previously certified 2G/3G capable only devices shall be tagged for phased deactivation in the NTC's licensing database;
- c. Coordination with manufacturers, dealers/retailers, vendors on the import and market entry of 2G/3G capable devices which will be barred.

Section 8. Supplemental Issuances. The NTC may issue orders, circulars, guidelines and/or regulations in order to supplement the implementation of any provision or group of provisions under this Circular.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. Any circular, memorandum, order or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this circular shall be deemed amended or superseded accordingly.

Section 10. Separability Clause. If any clause, provision or section of this Circular is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. Effectivity. This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation and by depositing three (3) certified true copies thereof to the University of the Philippines Law Center.

Done this 28th day of August 2025 in Quezon City, Philippines.


ELLA BLANCA B. LOPEZ
Commissioner


ALVIN BERNARD N. BLANCO
Deputy Commissioner


ANDRES D. CASTELAR, JR.
Deputy Commissioner

