REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

BAGONG PILIPINAS

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. HRA-001 APR 25 2025
Series of 2025

SUBJECT : ADOPTION OF A STANDARDS-BASED APPROACH TO INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGIC PLAN (ISSP) COMPLIANCE

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10844 or the Department of Information and Communications Technology Act of 2015 mandates the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to plan, develop, and promote the national Information and Communications Technology (ICT) agenda;

WHEREAS, Section 6 of R.A. No. 10844 states that the DICT shall formulate, recommend, and implement national policies, plans, programs and guidelines that will promote the development and use of ICT with due consideration to the advantages of convergence and emerging technologies;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of R.A. No. 10844 states that the DICT shall formulate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers as may be required to implement the objectives of R.A. No. 10844;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Order No. 237, series of 1989, requires all government agencies and other entities with projected information technology-resource requirements to submit their Information Systems Development Plans (now known as Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP)) to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for approval, upon the recommendation of the National Computer Center (NCC);

WHEREAS, NCC Memorandum Circular No. 99-01 directed the mandatory submission of five-year ISSPs by "all departments, attached agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and Government Financing Institutions (GFIs) of the Executive Branch," to the NCC;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 10844 abolished the NCC and transferred its powers and functions to the DICT;

WHEREAS, the 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA) provides that the amounts under the GAA for ICT requirements shall be used in accordance with the government agency's ISSP, which shall be consistent with the policies and guidelines relative to the Medium-Term Information and Communication Technology Harmonization Initiative (MITHI);

WHEREAS, the DICT, the DBM, and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) issued Joint Memorandum Circular No. 24-01 that provides for the revival of the MITHI and reconstitution of the MITHI Steering Committee;

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Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)
General Services Division
Records and Archives Management Section
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WHEREAS, the MITHI Steering Committee develops an integrated framework to optimize government ICT resources and streamlines ICT programs and projects as identified in a covered government entities' ISSPs;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, and in recognition of the increasing digital maturity and institutional readiness of covered government entities, the DICT adopts a standards-based approach to ISSP compliance;

WHEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises, and without prejudice to the application of other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations on the matter, the DICT hereby issues this Department Circular prescribing the adoption of a standards-based approach to ISSP compliance of covered government entities.

Section 1. ***Scope.*** This Department Circular shall cover all NGAs, including GOCCs, GFIs, and SUCs. The Congress, Judiciary, Constitutional Commissions, the Office of the Ombudsman, and Local Government Units (LGUs) are encouraged to refer to this Department Circular and other related issuances for comprehensive harmonization of ICT resources and alignment with national ICT priorities.

Section 2. ***Purpose.*** The DICT shall implement a standards-based approach in the preparation and submission of the ISSPs of covered government entities.

Section 3. ***Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP).*** The ISSP is a strategic document that serves as the covered government entity's roadmap for the application of ICT in support of its mandate, mission, and goals. It serves as the basis for the DBM to evaluate and determine the budgetary requirements for ICT programs and projects in coordination with MITHI.

Section 4. ***Compliance with ISSP Minimum Quality Standards.*** All covered government entities shall adhere to the ISSP minimum quality standards as may be prescribed by the DICT or MITHI. Covered government entities shall utilize the template prepared and approved by the MITHI Steering Committee.

Section 5. ***Submission of ISSPs to the MITHI Steering Committee.*** In lieu of undergoing technical review, evaluation, and endorsement by the DICT, covered government entities shall submit their ISSPs directly to the MITHI Steering Committee Secretariat at secretariat@mithi.gov.ph.

Section 6. ***Separability Clause.*** If any section or provision of this Department Circular and its Annexes is declared null and void, or unconstitutional, the other portions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

Section 7. ***Repealing Clause.*** Department Circular No. 001, series of 2024, or the Guidelines for the Submission of the Information Systems Strategic Plan for the Technical Review, Evaluation, and Endorsement of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, and all

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other rules, regulations, and issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Department Circular are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. ***Effectivity.*** This Department Circular shall take effect immediately.

HENRY RHOEL R. AGUDA
Secretary

Copy furnished:
All concerned.

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