ATTN

HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, BUREAUS, OFFICES, STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIARY BRANCHES, CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES, OTHER INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND OTHER SECTORS CONCERNED

SUBJECT

CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) MONTH IN JUNE 2023.

DATE

15 MAY 2023

In accordance with **Proclamation No. 1521**, **s. 2008**, which designated the month of June of 2008 and every subsequent year as the "National Information and Communications Technology (ICT)" Month, and in line with **Republic Act No. 10844** that established the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the DICT leads the annual celebration of the National ICT Month (NICTM). This event emphasizes the essential role that ICT plays in diverse social and economic domains.

For the year 2023, we are pleased to announce that the celebration will underscore the theme, *Connecting Communities*, *Enriching Lives*, *Forging a Digital Future for the Philippines*. The primary objective of this theme is to inspire Filipinos to embrace the era of digital transformation by fostering innovation, collaboration, impact, and inclusivity. Through this commemoration, we aim to underscore the critical importance of ICT in propelling the Philippines towards a digital future and fostering progress across all sectors.

The following objectives, which would create a more efficient and effective digital ecosystem that can drive progress and improve the lives of all Filipinos, encapsulate the goals of this event:

1. Promote digital innovation and good governance across all sectors by encouraging new ways of thinking that prioritize outcomes and public value, instead of just completing tasks;

- 2. Educate and inform the public about the true nature of digital transformation, which involves more than just technology, but also creating a positive impact and improving people's lives;
- 3. Foster seamless collaboration between the public and private sectors, and ensure inclusivity in all digital initiatives, so that everyone can benefit from the opportunities presented by digital transformation; and
- 4. Encourage the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to lead the way in breaking down traditional mindsets and demonstrating effective performance of mandates, while also steering the country towards digital innovation.

To underscore the broad reach of ICT to development and economic growth, each week of June will represent the four facets of ICT as follows:

- 1. Week 1: Digital Innovation and Inclusion The initial week is an important period dedicated to accentuating the critical role of digital innovation, whilst championing inclusive approaches to digital transformation. The primary goal is to inspire a shift in mentality that emphasizes outcomes and societal value, superseding the mere completion of tasks. Furthermore, this week will specifically focus on the vital need to cultivate innovation ecosystems for startups, ICT industries, and sectors that require empowerment, such as women and youth, among others.
- 2. Week 2: Digital Governance The second week highlights the paramount importance of good governance in propelling digital transformation and enhancing public services. The objective is to foster the adoption of digital tools and technologies that augment governance, transparency, and accountability. This week will cast a spotlight on the government's initiatives aimed at the enhancement of digital governance, e-governance, and e-government.
- 3. Week 3: Digital Workforce Competitiveness The third week underscores the necessity of nurturing a competent and skilled workforce in the digital era. The aim is to promote programs and initiatives that amplify digital literacy, digital skills, and capacity building, thus enhancing the competitiveness of the workforce. This week aligns with the provision of Republic Act No. 11927, otherwise known as the Philippine Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act of 2022, which specifically mandates the celebration of this week.

4. Week 4: Digital Infrastructure and Cybersecurity - The final week concentrates on the critical role of digital infrastructure and cybersecurity in fostering digital transformation and progress across various sectors. The intention is to heighten awareness about the importance of digital infrastructure and cybersecurity in constructing a safe and secure digital environment.

The DICT strongly encourages all government agencies, instrumentalities, non-government organizations, sectoral groups, private and civil society organizations, along with other stakeholders at the national, regional, and local levels, to organize programs and activities of substantive relevance in alignment with the overarching objectives and focus of the 2023 NICTM Celebration. Such initiatives may include: (i) active social media campaign; (ii) programs promoting digitalization; (iii) motorcade and other public events; (iv) use of hashtags and slogans to support the theme; (v) activities in support of digital laws and policies, *i.e.*, sim card registration, among others); (vi) startup events, hackathons and pitching competitions; and (vii) coding boot camps and other digital skill trainings

The DICT also requests support in further building and strengthening the branding of the NICT Month through any of the following efforts: (i) utilizing DICT logo and other collaterals; (ii) hanging of streamers and banners in respective areas; (iii) promoting social media campaigns; and (iv) setting of profile picture frames.

Furthermore, the DICT underscores the importance for all stakeholders to strictly adhere to the relevant health and safety protocols when conducting physical gatherings in their respective areas. We reiterate that the annual celebration of the NICTM is a peaceful and non-partisan activity. To retain the focus on the advocacy, stakeholders are urged to refrain from using DICT-produced materials for partisan political and other unlawful activities.

For further information, downloadable collateral designs, and updates about the 2023 NICTM Celebration, stakeholders are advised to visit https://bit.ly/NICTM2023. Regular announcements shall also be posted on the official social media pages of the DICT:

- 1. https://dict.gov.ph/
- 2. https://www.instagram.com/dictgovph/
- 3. https://twitter.com/DICTgovph
- 4. https://www.facebook.com/DICTgovph/
- 5. https://www.linkedin.com/company/dictgovph/

For any additional inquiries or need for clarification, stakeholders may reach out to the NICTM Secretariat through nictm2023@dict.gov.ph.

We look forward to your support and rest assured of our cooperation on matters of mutual concern.

Thank you very much.

IVAN JOHN E. UY

Secretary

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