



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

*Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012:  
Launch of the Implementing Rules and Regulations*

**12 August 2015  
10:00 AM**

**Manila, Philippines**

**MESSAGE**

by

**LEILA M. DE LIMA**  
*Secretary*

Good morning everyone. Special greetings to my partner in crime fighting, Secretary Manuel "Mar" A. Roxas II of the Department of Interior and Local Government represented today by USEC Edwin Enrile, Secretary Mario G. Montejo of the Department of Science and Technology, Undersecretary and Executive Director Undersecretary Louis C. Casambre of DOST-Information and Communication Technology Office (ICTO), ASEC Germino "Indian" Sy, Microsoft Philippines and all the advocates present today to witness and support the landmark launch of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the country's first and only comprehensive legislation on cybercrime.

Please let me thank the patience and professionalism of the men and women of the DILG-PNP, DOST-ICTO, our own DOJ Office of Cybercrime and the NBI and the members of the Technical Working Group; and the different representatives from business, academe, media, legal profession, non-government organizations, ICT associations, internet service providers and all national government agencies who heartily participated in the two-month technical working group meetings and public consultations.

The imperative of having a legal framework that penalizes cybercrime in its many evolving forms, provides for strong international cooperation given

the transnational nature of cybercrime and lays out an effective implementation strategy anchored on a regime of electronic evidence.

We recall the development of the seminal Cybercrime Prevention Act that took all of 14 years to pass into law as a concrete manifestation of perseverance to see that the rule of law extends to cyberspace, that law enforcement catch up with the emerging changes in technology and those who abuse it.

Obviously, we have a lot of catching up to do. Cybercrime offenders have had about three (3) decades of head start, giving them the valuable time to hone their malicious craft. It's about time that we, in the government, take that step to finally tackle them head-on.

It is our mandate to ensure that while crimes ought not to go unpunished, that wherever cybercriminals may be found, the full force of the law must apply.

Indeed, 'Justice for All' will not be meaningful unless it includes the medium that is the internet with all its possibilities and pitfalls. Access to justice acquires a special meaning when transgressions are done virtually and redress is sought via emails, texts and URLs.

Our response is to build a team of cybercrime professionals equipped with the requisite expertise, backed up by adequate resources and operating under an ethical framework to ensure that we can deliver justice.

Please be assured that government, the Departments here will be equally vigilant in the protection of civil liberties be it on the streets, in justice processes, in the courts and on the web. This is one way where the citizen's trust and confidence can be nurtured and grown.

As we launch this IRR today, we shall continue to adopt a pro-active approach in solving cybercrime cases. Constructive approaches and reasoned comments are always welcome. The spirit of transparency and dialogue will infuse our processes. Already we have reached out nationally, regionally, and globally to build collaborative networks. We shall continue to do so in the coming days.

Let us then close ranks and be minded of our individual responsibilities to establish a justice system that works for our country and our society, a cybercrime enforcement regime that secures the online environment from crime, encourages communication and innovation and shields the vulnerable and the innocent.

*Maraming salamat po, mabuhay and a pleasant day to all of you.*