



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

04 December 2020

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First Secretary (Home Affairs)
Australian Embassy in the Philippines
Level 23 Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200

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I would like to express my gratitude to you and the Australian Embassy in the Philippines for inviting the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) to share its views on the Exposure Draft of the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020. The PhilSA is pleased to be able to share its inputs to the aforementioned, specifically on the definition and clauses related to the space technology sector.

The PhilSA notes the Australian Government's definition of the space technology sector as the "sector of the Australian economy that involves the commercial provision of space-related services". As a government entity, the PhilSA is inclined to inquire whether the definition would suffice to cover space infrastructure such as government or Commonwealth-owned and operated satellites and other space technologies, which may be non-commercial, but likewise provide crucial support to critical sectors such as health, transport, weather monitoring, and telecommunications to name a few.

Furthermore, the PhilSA notes the non-specificity in the Bill's definition of a critical space technology asset, with preference to the oversight function to be exercised by Australia's Minister of Home Affairs in the identification of said assets. It is likewise noted that within Australia's current context, critical space technology sector assets are currently identifiable as communications assets. These clauses provide the bill with much needed flexibility, allowing it to constantly take into account the developments in the space technology sector which are spurred by both government and private sector investments. Nevertheless, the Australian Government may wish to consider further balancing flexibility with the need for direction and guidance, especially considering the high likelihood of space technology assets being applied or operationalized in other crucial sectors apart from communications. On this note, the national space agency or credible equivalent organization with the requisite expertise may be able to assist in discussing and defining for the Australian Government the critical space technology assets in the context of an evolving Australian and worldwide space sector.

As the planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch for the national space program and the Philippine Space Policy, the PhilSA is open to and welcomes further discussions on possible cooperation between the Philippines and Australia in securing critical infrastructure and enabling peaceful

science and technology applications in the space sector. On this note, kindly extend our warmest regards to the Australian Government, especially to Dr. Megan Clark and the Australian Space Agency. You may reach us through the email of the PhilSA's **Space Policy and International Cooperation Bureau** at [REDACTED].

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

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JOEL JOSEPH S. MARCIANO, JR., Ph.D.
Director General

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