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Republic of the Philippines  
Quezon City  
23<sup>rd</sup> City Council

Proposed Ordinance No.-\_\_\_\_, Series of 2026

**AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INTERNET, AND CABLE WIRES IN QUEZON CITY TO PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY, URBAN AESTHETICS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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**Introduced by:**  
**Councilor ALFRED VARGAS, MPA**  
**Councilor JULIENNE ALYSON RAE V. MEDALLA**

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**WHEREAS**, under Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, local government units are empowered to exercise powers which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare, including the preservation and enrichment of comfort, safety, health, ecology, and aesthetics in their jurisdictions;

**WHEREAS**, telecommunications and cable infrastructure—while essential to daily life—when installed overhead along public roads and structures, contribute to physical hazards, urban congestion, and long-term infrastructure disorganization, especially in dense and highly urbanized areas such as Quezon City;

**WHEREAS**, dangling, tangled, and unregulated overhead wires frequently obstruct firefighting, rescue, and emergency operations during disasters, and have been known to cause or worsen electrocutions, fires, and road accidents;

**WHEREAS**, the growing incidence of extreme weather events linked to climate change—such as typhoons and torrential rains—exacerbates the vulnerability of overhead utility lines, often leading to widespread outages, communication failures, and public hazards;

**WHEREAS**, the National Building Code (Presidential Decree No. 1096), as amended, underscores the responsibility of local governments to ensure safe, efficient, and orderly urban infrastructure through the regulation and enforcement of structural standards;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 12234, otherwise known as the “Konektadong Pinoy Act,” declares it the policy of the State to promote universal, affordable, reliable, and high-quality internet connectivity through the accelerated deployment of telecommunications infrastructure, the adoption of shared passive infrastructure, and the streamlining of the government permitting process;

**WHEREAS**, the Konektadong Pinoy Act expressly recognizes the role of local government units in facilitating, harmonizing, and coordinating the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure within their territorial jurisdiction, consistent with national standards and without imposing undue barriers to connectivity;

**WHEREAS**, the underground installation of telecommunications, internet, and cable infrastructure, when implemented in a coordinated, non-discriminatory, and infrastructure-sharing framework, supports the objectives of the Konektadong Pinoy Act by enhancing network resilience, service reliability, disaster preparedness, and long-term urban efficiency;

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative for Quezon City to align local infrastructure regulation with the national digital connectivity roadmap, while exercising its police power to protect public safety, urban order, and environmental sustainability;

**WHEREAS**, the aesthetic quality of the city's streetscapes and public spaces is diminished by the visual pollution caused by excessive and haphazard wiring, which negatively affects public perception, tourism potential, property values, and investor confidence in the city;

**WHEREAS**, several local governments in the Philippines and abroad have already begun implementing underground utility systems as part of urban modernization and disaster-resilient infrastructure planning, demonstrating their feasibility and long-term benefits;

**WHEREAS**, the local government of Quezon City recognizes that relocating telecommunications and cable infrastructure underground is not only a matter of improving urban design, but also an urgent and necessary measure for public safety, disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, and quality of life enhancement, and

**WHEREAS**, Quezon City Ordinance SP-2510, S-2016, created a task force regulating the installation and maintenance of poles and utility wires, reflecting long-standing City concern regarding public safety and utility infrastructure.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY, IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:**

**SECTION 1. TITLE .** - This Ordinance shall be known as the "*Underground Telecommunications, Internet, and Cable Wiring Ordinance of Quezon City*" for brevity.

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY .** - It is hereby declared the policy of Quezon City to:

1. Promote public safety by reducing hazards caused by overhead wires;
2. Eliminate visual pollution and contribute to enhancing urban aesthetics;
3. Foster modernization and resilience in urban infrastructure; and
4. Institutionalize standards and coordination between the local government and utility/telecommunications/internet/cable television providers.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.** - For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following words or terms shall be construed as follows:

"**Underground Cabling**" shall refer to the installation, operation, and maintenance of

telecommunications, internet, and cable television lines and facilities within subsurface ducts, conduits, or other underground utility corridors, in lieu of overhead or aerial installations. This includes the relocation of existing overhead wires and the integration of such facilities with public infrastructure, consistent with safety, urban design, and regulatory standards.

**“Telecommunications Companies”** shall refer to entities duly franchised by Congress and authorized by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to provide telecommunications services within the Philippines, including but not limited to fixed-line and mobile telephone services, data transmission, and other related communication services, whether public or commercial in nature.

**“Internet Service Providers”** shall refer to persons, natural or juridical, engaged in the business of providing internet connectivity and related services to end-users, and duly authorized by the NTC under existing laws, rules, and regulations.

**“Cable Television Operators”** shall refer to entities granted a congressional franchise and authorized by the NTC to construct, operate, and maintain community antenna television (CATV) systems, direct-to-home (DTH) satellite services, or similar facilities for the transmission of video programming and related services to subscribers.

**“Utility Lines”** shall refer to the physical infrastructure and facilities, including wires, cables, poles, ducts, conduits, network access points, cable riser, and related appurtenances, used to transmit and deliver telecommunications, internet, and cable television services.

**Data Transmission Industry participant or “DTIP”** refers to any entity engaged in the provision of data transmission services as a form of economic activity, where the entity can physically or virtually operate, manage or control any relevant segment of the data transmission network. Public telecommunications entities (PTEs) and value-added services (VAS) providers, as defined under Republic Act No. 7925 and its implementing rules and regulations, and Satellite Systems Providers or Operators (SSPOs) are considered DTIPs to the extent of their businesses engaged in data transmission services, excluding foreign government-controlled entities or foreign state-owned enterprises as defined in R.A. No. 11659 or “An Act Amending Commonwealth Act (C.A.) 146, otherwise known as the Public Service Act, as amended” and its implementing rules and regulations (PSA), except independent pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and multinational banks;

**SECTION 4. COVERAGE.** - This Ordinance applies to all telecommunications, internet service providers, cable television operators, and other similar providers operating within Quezon City whose utility lines are installed overhead. This Ordinance shall cover all existing overhead lines and future installations.

Implementation of underground cabling shall proceed in phases, in coordination with the Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of representatives from the Quezon City Government and concerned telecommunications and cable providers.

**SECTION 5. MANDATE TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE SERVICE PROVIDERS.**- All telecommunications companies, internet service providers, cable television operators, and other similar providers operating within Quezon City are hereby mandated to install their utility lines underground, following civil works

schedules and conduit systems approved by the City Government and in coordination with the relevant national agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Transportation (DOTr), and others as may be necessary to avoid redundant excavation and ensure efficient infrastructure planning.

All new installations and extensions in public-facing infrastructure must be laid underground and must clear and remove the existing wires that are no longer in service within the area where such applicant intends to operate or is already operating and servicing its clients as a condition for the issuance of necessary permits.

Consistent with the "Dig Once Policy" under the Konektadong Pinoy Act, telecommunications, internet, and cable service providers shall coordinate with the City Government and other utilities so that excavation, trenching, and underground works are planned jointly and executed only once where practicable. Providers may undertake shared trenching or co-build arrangements, subject to City Government supervision and applicable engineering and safety standards. The City Government shall assist in the identification, acquisition, and coordination of rights-of-way necessary for the installation and maintenance of underground utility facilities.

The cost of underground installation, relocation, and related civil works for telecommunications, internet, and cable facilities shall be borne exclusively by the telecommunication companies, internet service providers, cable television operators, and other similar providers.

#### **SECTION 6. APPLICATION AND REGULATION OF UTILITY WIRES. -**

Telecommunications companies, internet service providers, cable television operators, and other similar providers operating within Quezon City shall submit their application to install utility wires and shall coordinate with the Office of the City Administrator, Department of Building Official, and Department of Engineering for alignment with existing or planned civil works and conduit sharing arrangements.

All public and private entities must provide underground utility installation for telecommunications and cable services as a precondition for the issuance of building or occupancy permits.

#### **SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE . -** Upon completion of underground ducts by the City or by the utilities:

All telecommunications companies, internet service providers, cable television operators, and other similar providers shall relocate their existing overhead wires within twelve (12) months, unless extended for technical, safety, or national policy considerations consistent with the Konektadong Pinoy Act.

All new developments, including subdivisions, malls, mixed-use estates, and government buildings, shall comply with the underground installation requirement as a prerequisite for the issuance of an occupancy permit. Temporary aerial installations may be allowed only for emergency or transition purposes, subject to prior written authorization by the City Government.

The implementation of underground cabling shall be carried out in phases and by area, based on priority zones identified by the City Government to ensure systematic rollout, minimize public disruption, and align with ongoing infrastructure works. The phased implementation shall proceed as follows:

Priority 1 (2025- 2026): Quezon Memorial Circle, Kalayaan Avenue, East Avenue, Quezon Avenue

Priority 2 (2026-2027): Timog Avenue, Tomas Morato Avenue, Visayas Avenue

Priority 3 (2027- 2028): Banawe and Eastwood areas

Additional areas and the corresponding timelines may be identified by the City Government in coordination with the TWG.

**SECTION 8. INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING AND NON-DISCRIMINATION.** - All underground ducts, conduits, and related passive telecommunications infrastructure installed pursuant to this Ordinance shall support shared use, co-location, and open access arrangements among qualified providers, consistent with Konektadong Pinoy Act and applicable national policies.

**SECTION 9. CREATION OF UNDERGROUND CABLING MONITORING COMMITTEE.** - The Underground Cabling Monitoring Committee (UCMC) is hereby constituted, with the following membership:

<b>City Mayor</b>	<i>Chairman</i>
<b>City Administrator</b>	<i>Vice Chairman</i>
<b>City Engineer</b>	<i>Member</i>
<b>City Assessor</b>	<i>Member</i>
<b>Head, City Planning and Development Department</b>	<i>Member</i>
<b>Head, Department of Building Official</b>	<i>Member</i>
<b>Head, Department of Public Order and Safety</b>	<i>Member</i>
<b>Head, Barangay and Community Relations Department</b>	<i>Member</i>
<b>Head, Traffic and Transport Management Department</b>	<i>Member</i>

The Underground Cabling Monitoring Committee (UCMC) is mandated to oversee compliance by the telecommunications companies, internet service providers, cable television operators, and other similar providers. Additionally, the UCMC shall issue rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance, and shall meet quarterly or as often as may be needed.

In the implementation of this Ordinance, the UCMC shall closely coordinate with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), DPWH, MMDA, and other concerned national agencies to ensure compliance with Konektadong Pinoy Act, national technical standards, and policies on telecommunications infrastructure deployment.

The City Mayor, as the Chairperson of the UCMC, may add and remove the member/s of the Committee as they deem necessary.

**SECTION 10. APPROPRIATIONS.** - The funds necessary for the oversight, coordination, monitoring, inspection, and enforcement of this Ordinance, including the operational requirements of the UCMC, shall be charged against existing and available appropriations of the Quezon City Government, subject to applicable budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary solely for regulatory and oversight functions shall be included in the annual budget of the City, subject to the approval of the City Council.

**SECTION 11. REAL PROPERTY TAX.** - The utility lines and infrastructure installed by telecommunications companies, internet service providers, cable television operators, and other similar providers in compliance with this Ordinance, whether aboveground during the transition period or permanently installed underground, shall be classified as "other structures" and be subject to real property tax as mandated by the Local Government Code of 1991 and existing Quezon City Ordinances.

**SECTION 12. PENALTY CLAUSE .** - Any telecommunications company, internet service provider, cable television operator, or other similar provider that violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be penalized with a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) per day and/or the cancellation or revocation of its Business Permit issued by the Quezon City Government.

If the offender is a corporation, partnership, association, or any other juridical entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the responsible officer(s) directly accountable for the violation, without prejudice to the cancellation or revocation of the entity's Business Permit.

**SECTION 13. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.** - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Ordinance, the City Engineering Department, and the Department of Building Official, in coordination with other relevant departments, shall formulate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to ensure effective implementation of this Ordinance, if it is deemed that an IRR is necessary. *Provided*, that the non-issuance of the IRR shall not prevent the implementation of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 14. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** - Should any provision be declared invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance shall remain in effect.

**SECTION 15. REPEALING CLAUSE.** - All provisions inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby rescinded or amended as necessary.


**SECTION 16. NON-IMPAREMENT OF FRANCHISES AND NATIONAL AUTHORITY.** - Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as:


1. Impairing, amending, or diminishing any legislative franchise granted by the Congress to telecommunications companies, internet service providers, cable television operators, or other similar entities;
2. Limiting or superseding the powers, functions, or regulatory authority of the DICT, the NTC, or any other national government agency exercising

- jurisdiction over telecommunications services and infrastructure; or
- 3. Restricting the lawful provision of telecommunications, internet, and cable services, except in the reasonable exercise of the City's police power to promote public safety, urban order, environmental sustainability, and disaster resilience.

**SECTION 17. EFFECTIVITY.** - This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of local circulation and posting on official channels of the Quezon City Government.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

  
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*City Councilor*  
*District 5, Quezon City*

  
**JULIENNE ALYSON RAE V. MEDALLA**  
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