



## Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

# Philippines

# OSOR

### 1 General Information

The Philippines has a long history of using and developing open source solutions in its public and private sector. The surge of open source adoption in the Philippines mirrored the broader movement in Southeast Asia during the early 2000s aimed at developing local operating systems. The Philippines notably introduced its own system, Bayanihan GNU/Linux. The use of open source has been maintained in public administrations throughout the last decades and has recently seen a surge through the United Nations' Digital Public Goods Alliance and the reuse of software related to development goals.

### 2 Actors

#### POLICY MAKERS

The Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) is one of the institutes of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). It is the lead agency when it comes to government use, adoption, and innovation of open source software. Notably, it founded an open source group which was leading the efforts in government agencies for several years, starting in 2004.

#### STRATEGIC PLAYER

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is in charge of protecting of the social welfare of rights of Filipinos and promoting the social development in the Philippines. It is one of the most prominent users of open source in the Philippines government.

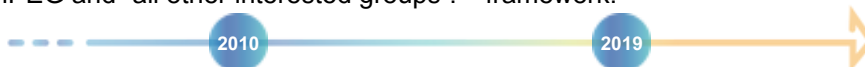
### 3 Policy and Legal Framework

#### Landmark case of Center For People Empowerment In Governance (CenPEG) V. Commission on Elections (COMELEC)

The Supreme Court found in favour of CenPEG the NGO that requested specific parts of the source code of voting machines used in national elections be made available to CenPEG and "all other interested groups".

#### E-Government Masterplan (EGMP) 2022

This plan sets the strategies towards developing the country's e-Government systems, aiming at creating an interoperable and integrated government ICT infrastructure, including networks. It encourages open standards and the development of an open source framework.



### 4 Open Source Software Initiatives

#### Project AEDES

The AEDES prototype is a locally developed automated information portal that correlates cases of dengue fever and deaths with real-time climate data, Google searches, and satellite maps. It was recognised as a digital public good in 2021 for its beneficial impact on the population. It was also supported by the DOST which nominated it to become a digital public good.

#### openIMIS in universities, 2020

openIMIS is an open source software package which supports the administration of health financing and social protection schemes and is also recognised as a digital public good. It has been adopted in the Philippines as part of a partnership between local organisations and the openIMIS Regional Hub Asia, a regional community of practice.

#### Philippine Identification System (Philsys)

Established by the Republic Act No. 11055, Philsys is based on an open source identification platform (MOSIP). It allows citizens to have proof of identity provided by PhilSys which will simplify public and private transactions.

#### ASTI's open source group and Bayanihan GNU/Linux, 2001

Originally developing an open source desktop solution in July 2001, this was a project lasting for several years that created Bayanihan GNU/Linux. Promoting the early version of the system on roadshows around the country, the open source group also advocated for open source and its philosophy among universities and public institutions.