

## Rody's preferential treatment for 3rd telco justified – lawmaker

By DELON PORCALLA

An opposition lawmaker yesterday said President Duterte's preferential treatment for the country's third telecommunications player is not only a welcome development but "absolutely justified."

"Public interest dictates the preferential treatment. The state, in going out of its way to accommodate the third player, is in fact merely fulfilling its duty to foster

stronger and freer market competition," Makati City Rep. Luis Jose Angel Campos Jr. said.

"We have to enable the new entrant to quickly roll out its network for the benefit of consumers, who for years have had no choice but to endure the inadequate and costly internet services being supplied by the two players," he added.

Campos said the decision to give the country's third telecommunications player the best possible preferential treatment is long overdue since it will "give Filipinos access to faster and cheaper internet connection speeds."

Malacañang has ordered all

concerned agencies – from the National Telecommunications Commission down to local governments – to expedite the grant of licenses and permits needed by the new entrant.

Without Duterte's directive, Campos said the third player would face numerous hurdles, including potential delays in securing licenses and regulatory approvals to form the new telecommunications company.

All told, the new entrant may have to spend up to P125 billion over the next three years to be in a position to effectively compete with telco giants PLDT Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc., according to market analysts.

\*TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
of DUTERTE, RODRIGO