

**[NTC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 9-10-97,
October 17, 1997]**

PUBLIC MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE (PMTS)

Pursuant to RA 7925 and its Implementing Rules and regulations, the Commission hereby promulgates the following:

1. PMTS operators shall be authorized to operate in the allocated radio frequency bands for PMTS.
2. The following implementation timeframe shall be strictly complied with by authorized operators in the provision of public mobile telephone operators in the provision of public mobile telephone service (PMTS):

At least 40% of all cities and municipalities shall have PMTS coverage within two (2) years from date of authority and at least 80% on the third year. The grade of service shall be at least 0.03.

The above implementation time frame shall apply simultaneously in Luzon (Regions I, II, III, IV, V and CAR), Visayas (Regions VI, VII and VIII including Palawan Province), Mindanao (Regions IX, X, XI, XII, ARMM and CARAGA), and the NCR.

3. Telecommunications companies with applications for PMTS which have completed the presentation of evidence in support of their application, both oral and documentary shall be evaluated and qualified within forty-five (45) days from the effectivity of this circular on the basis of the following, to wit:

- a. legal capacity
- b. financial capacity including payments of fees due
- c. technical capacity

For applicants with commitments/obligations under their respective LEC authorizations, full compliance to their commitments/obligations based on their obligations in their approved roll-out plans pursuant to the Memorandum of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications dated 19 September 1996 as of the third quarter of 1997 shall be considered in the evaluation and qualification of the applicants.

4. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds the allocated radio frequencies for PMTS, bidding shall be conducted.

Bidding Procedure

5. The Commission shall appoint the members of the 5-man "Bid Committee" not later than 30 days from the effectivity of this circular. Only one representative from any of the consumers/users groups shall be appointed as an observer. The function of the bid committee shall end after the winning bidders are officially announced except as provided for in Section 11 and Section 15 of this circular. The bid