

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



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SENATE
P.S. RES. No 1091

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PLANNED ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE FILIPINOS WHO WILL BE DISPLACED BY THE INDUSTRY-WIDE BAN OF PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATIONS (POGOS) IN THE COUNTRY, AS ORDERED BY PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

1 **WHEREAS**, the right to information is not only a human right, but an
2 essential tool that empowers the people to demand accountability from the
3 government; meanwhile, it is the government's responsibility to collect and maintain
4 all information on its policies and programs and disseminate these information to the
5 public;

6 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators, more popularly known
7 as POGOs, started operating in the country in 2003 by conducting online gambling
8 services to Chinese customers outside the Philippines;

9 **WHEREAS**, based on the data of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming
10 Corporation (PAGCOR), the income gained from the industry in the form of license
11 fees from 300 POGOs reached more than P7 Billion in 2019;

12 **WHEREAS**, aside from this, the POGO industry brought in financial gains in
13 the form of the following: tax revenues from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);
14 Gross Gaming Revenues from PAGCOR; estimated income from office and residential
15 space rentals; transportation; and additional demand from the private consumption
16 of employees and entities;

17 **WHEREAS**, following the initial success of POGO operations in the country,
18 massive arrival of Chinese nationals, both documented and undocumented, to work
19 in POGOs was recorded;

20 **WHEREAS**, despite these economic benefits, law enforcers reported that
21 POGOs are behind illicit activities, including but not limited to financial scamming,
22 money laundering, prostitution, human trafficking, kidnapping, brutal torture, and
23 even murder;

24 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has received multiple
25 complaints for kidnapping for ransom and torture incidents of Chinese POGO
26 workers, by their fellow citizens;

27 **WHEREAS**, at present, there are forty three (43) legitimate POGOs operating
28 in the country;

29 **WHEREAS**, on 22 July 2024, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. delivered his
30 third State of the Nation Address (SONA) at the Batasang Pambansa, conveying the
31 accomplishments of his administration and his future plans for the nation;

32 **WHEREAS**, during the SONA, President Marcos made a rousing
33 pronouncement to ban all POGOS across the country, and ordering the Philippine
34 Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to wind down their operations by
35 the end of the year;

36 **WHEREAS**, alongside this pronouncement, the President also ordered the
37 Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to work with the country's economic
38 managers to come up with recommendations for alternative jobs for Filipinos who
39 will be affected by the ban;

40 **WHEREAS**, according to PAGCOR chairman and CEO Alejandro Tengco,
41 there are some 31,000 direct POGO employees and more than 9,000 workers in
42 special business process outsourcing who will be displaced by the closure of POGOS;

43 **WHEREAS**, considering the thousands of Filipino workers who will be
44 adversely affected by the impending closure of POGO operations in the country, the
45 public has the right to be informed of the planned actions and the programs to be
46 implemented by the government to address this issue: Now, therefore, be it

47 **RESOLVED**, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on
48 Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into
49 the planned actions of the government with regard to the Filipinos who will be
50 displaced by the industry-wide ban of POGOs in the country, as ordered by President
51 Marcos.

Adopted,



ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA
Senator