

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

24 NOV 18 19:02

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1236

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Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT**  
**AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON**  
**THE UNAUTHORIZED TRANSACTIONS, FINANCIAL LOSSES, AND**  
**EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO**  
**MOBILE WALLET APPLICATIONS AND DIGITAL BANKS**

1       **WHEREAS**, from 8 to 9 November 2024, numerous users of GCash, the  
2 country's leading mobile wallet application or e-wallet, reported 'unauthorized'  
3 transactions that resulted to missing funds, through successive transfers in the amount  
4 of Php 1,000.00 or Php 2,000.00 to unknown e-wallet accounts;

5       **WHEREAS**, this is similar to incidents which occurred in May 2023, wherein at  
6 least Six million pesos (Php 6,000,000.00) worth of funds were allegedly affected and  
7 on the reported claims of digital banks' depositors involving unauthorized and  
8 unexplained transactions, which reduce or even deplete their accounts;

9       **WHEREAS**, these occurrences are alarming to say the least, especially that  
10 GCash reportedly generated 6 trillion pesos in gross transactions in 2022 and boasted  
11 ninety-four (94) million users in the Philippines as of 2023—a significant portion of the  
12 population; additionally, digital banks saw a surge in their deposit base from Thirty-  
13 five billion (Php 35,000,000,000.00) pesos in 2022, to Sixty-nine billion (Php  
14 69,000,000,000.00) pesos by the end of 2023, and Seventy-six point eight billion  
15 pesos (Php 76,800,000,000.00) as of March 2024;

1       **WHEREAS,** the recently enacted Republic Act No. 12010 or the "Anti-Financial  
2 Account Scamming Act (AFASA)," mandates that financial institutions such as GCash,  
3 Paymaya and digital banks shall ensure that access to their clients' financial accounts  
4 is protected by adequate risk management systems and controls and their failure to  
5 do so would hold them liable for restitution of funds to the account owners;

6       **WHEREAS,** pursuant to the above, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)  
7 issued Memorandum No. M-2024-029 reiterating the requirement of BSP-supervised  
8 financial institutions (BSFIs) under IT Risk Management Standards and Guidelines to  
9 provide various controls specific to e-services, including application security, non-  
10 repudiation of transactions, authorization controls, and access privileges; and

11       **WHEREAS,** while e-wallets and digital banks substantially contribute to  
12 meaningful financial inclusion by providing access to formal financial system, sufficient  
13 and effective regulatory measures need to be adopted to foster a balance between  
14 transparency, accountability, financial inclusivity, and the ease of doing commercial  
15 transactions thereby avoiding erosion of public confidence on financial institutions and  
16 ultimately promoting economic growth;

17       **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** as it is hereby resolved, to direct the  
18 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the  
19 reported unauthorized transactions, financial losses, and adequacy of existing laws,  
20 rules and regulations relating to mobile wallet apps and digital banks.

*Adopted,*

  
**MARK A. VILLAR** 