

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

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1083

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND "BONGBONG" MARCOS JR.'S ORDER DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR), AS WELL AS OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES, TO WIND UP THE BUSINESS OPERATIONS OF EXISTING PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATORS (POGOS)

1 **WHEREAS**, on 22 July 2024, during his 3rd State of the Nation Address (SONA),
2 President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. (PBBM), declared that POGOs are banned
3 effective immediately and ordered the PAGCOR to wind up and to cease the operations
4 of existing offshore betting entities until the end of the year;

5 **WHEREAS**, PBBM stressed that POGOs, which are disguising as legitimate
6 entities, have eventually ventured into illegal and inimical activities such as financial
7 scamming, money laundering, prostitution, human trafficking, kidnapping, brutal
8 torture and even murder, and that these grave abuse and disrespect to our laws have
9 to stop;

10 **WHEREAS**, PBBM likewise ordered the Department of Labor and Employment
11 to coordinate with the economic managers in ensuring displaced Filipino workers
12 would find new jobs;

13 **WHEREAS**, POGOs, which are offering online gambling services such as
14 electronic casinos and sports betting to customers outside the country, began their
15 operations sometime in 2003 but only gained prominence and proliferated in recent
16 years peaking at more than three hundred (300) licensed entities by 2019;

17 **WHEREAS**, POGOs are required to secure a gaming license from PAGCOR, a
18 government corporation tasked with authorizing, granting licenses, and regulating

1 games of chance, or, as mandated by Republic Act 11590, from any special economic,
2 tourism zone, or freeport authority.

3 **WHEREAS**, the cancellation of POGO licenses requires a well-crafted and
4 structured transition approach in order to cushion the impacts of the closure order by
5 the end of the year, hence, the need for the insight, intervention and coordination
6 with the proper oversight committees of the Congress.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it hereby resolved, that the
8 appropriate Senate Committee, with the assistance of relevant government agencies
9 and stakeholders, conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the sufficiency of existing
10 laws, the necessity of a legislative imprimatur to execute PBBM's order, as well as to
11 ensure that appropriate implementing steps will be taken during and after winding up
12 the business operations of POGOs.

Adopted,


MARK A. VILLAR

