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

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S E N A T E P.S. RES. No. <u>1242</u>

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Introduced by Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

## RESOLUTION

## DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON WORKPLACE HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

WHEREAS, Republic Act 7877, otherwise known as the "Anti-Sexual Harassment 1 Act of 1995" punishes "an employer, employee, manager, supervisor, agent of the 2 employer, teacher, instructor, professor, coach, trainor, or any person who, having 3 authority, influence or moral ascendancy over another in a work or training or education 4 environment, demands, requests or otherwise requires any sexual favor from 5 the other, regardless of whether the demand, request or requirement for submission is 6 accepted or not by the object of said act."; 7 WHEREAS, workplace sexual harassment and abuse take many different forms and 8 ranges from unwanted touching, inappropriate comments or jokes, bullying, or someone 9 10 promising you a promotion in exchange for sexual favors; WHEREAS, a researcher from TV5 claimed to have been molested by one of the 11 network's news executive named Cliff Gingco; 12 WHEREAS, the victim-researcher alleged that he was initially invited for drinks at 13 a restaurant by TV5 News and Public Affairs Program Manager Gingco to discuss his 14 dream of becoming a reporter; then later molested him in a motel room in Pasig City 15 while being intoxicated; 16 WHEREAS, the victim had only been reporting to the News and Public Affairs 17

department of TV5 for five days when the assault happened, which allegedly caused him
 severe trauma;

WHEREAS, the victim's camp has formally filed criminal charges against Gingco
 before the prosecutor's office;

3 WHEREAS, the incident involving the TV5 reporter and the network manager came 4 a few months after the highly publicized and similar incident involving 23-year old actor 5 Sandro Muhlach and two independent contractors, Jojo Nonez and Richard Cruz, of GMA 6 Network;

WHEREAS, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and molestation in the workplace has
become prevalent in the movie and tv industry, and the number of cases have increased
over the years but most incidents remain undisclosed due to the victims' fear of losing
job opportunities or being publicly ridiculed;

WHEREAS, these incidents of harassment necessitate an immediate review of
relevant laws including Republic Act No. 7877 (Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995), RA
11313 (Safe Spaces Act), RA 11306 (Mental Health Act), RA 11996 (the Eddie Garcia
Law), and the Labor Code of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it is equally imperative to formulate new policies and procedures within companies to facilitate reporting of harassment or abuse in the workplace, as well as providing adequate training, especially for employees tasked to handle such cases. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on workplace harassment and abuse.

Adopted,

affy T. Tulfo