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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1271

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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 THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF ILLEGAL POGO HUBS IN THE PHILIPPINES DESPITE THE TOTAL BAN IMPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS JR.

1 WHEREAS, on January 8, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) and the National Bureau
2 of Investigation (NBI), raided an illegal POGO hub operating in the RiRance Building in
3 Barangay Tambo, Parañaque City, despite President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s order for a
4 total ban on all POGO operations in the country;

5 WHEREAS, the raid resulted in the apprehension of over 400 foreign nationals,
6 including Chinese, Vietnamese, and Indonesian nationals, as well as several Filipino
7 citizens, who were allegedly engaged in various cybercrime activities, such as love scams
8 and illegal online gambling. Some tried to run away but were caught by the authorities;

9 WHEREAS, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has issued a directive for a total ban on
10 all POGO operations in the country, as announced during his State of the Nation Address
11 (SONA) last year;

12 WHEREAS, the BI has stated that the apprehended foreign nationals will undergo
13 investigation and may face deportation to their respective countries, while the NBI has
14 confirmed that the visas of those apprehended have expired;

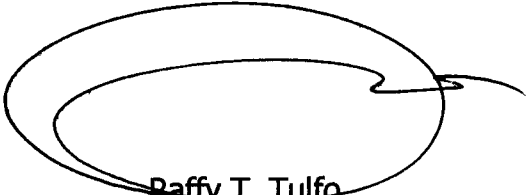
15 WHEREAS, the NBI also indicated that Filipino individuals apprehended in the
16 POGO hub may face criminal charges if their involvement in illegal activities is proven
17 during the investigation;

1 WHEREAS, the continued operation of illegal POGO hubs raises serious concerns
2 regarding compliance with the law, enforcement of immigration regulations, and the
3 overall integrity of the country's governance;

4 WHEREAS, it is imperative to determine the underlying reasons for the persistence
5 of illegal POGO operations and to hold accountable those responsible for permitting such
6 activities in violation of existing laws;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of
8 the Philippines directs the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
9 legislation, on the continued operation of illegal POGO hubs in the Philippines, despite
10 the total ban imposed by the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Adopted,



Raffy T. Tulfo