



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

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SENATE

P.S.R. No. 1027

RECEIVED BY: _____ 

Introduced by **Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel**

RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION
INTO ONLINE GAMING IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE PURPOSE
OF UPDATING THE LAW TO BETTER REGULATE THE INDUSTRY
AND ENHANCE REVENUE GENERATION

WHEREAS, On September 1, 2016, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), pursuant to its mandate under P.D. No. 1869 to centralize and integrate all games of chance, promulgated rules for the issuance of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO) Licenses;

WHEREAS, by virtue thereof, a POGO licensee is allowed to provide offshore gaming services, defined as offering games of chance *via* the internet, to offshore authorized players who must not be Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the same rules also regulate the operations of POGO gaming Agents and various service providers, such as gaming platform providers, business process outsourcing providers, data streaming providers, and gaming support providers;

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2018, more than half of the around 335,800 working visas and special work permits issued to Chinese nationals were for POGO-related jobs;

WHEREAS, out of 54 POGO licensees, of which 10 are local firms and 44 are offshore operators, only a total of 15 are registered with the Bureau of Internal Revenue for tax purposes;

WHEREAS, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III was recently quoted as saying that the government was losing at least 3 Billion Pesos a month in tax revenue from foreign workers in the online gaming industry;

WHEREAS, while employment opportunities in the online gaming industry are available to Filipinos, most are for the scantily clad dealers who run the games in real time from casino gaming tables;

WHEREAS, the online gaming industry in the Philippines generates more than 55 billion pesos per year in annual revenue and, yet, is only governed

and regulated by administrative issuances and rules; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of this industry is necessary to enhance revenue generation and protect against the oversexualization and objectification of women.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO ONLINE GAMING IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPDATING THE LAW TO BETTER REGULATE THE INDUSTRY AND ENHANCE REVENUE GENERATION.

Adopted.

Ana Theresia Baraquiel
ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS-
BARAQUEL
Senator