

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



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SENATE

P.S. RES. No. 69

Introduced by **SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING RISING NUMBER OF TEXT SCAMS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THAT WOULD ENSURE THE PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF EVERY FILIPINO AGAINST CYBERCRIMES

1 WHEREAS, *Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10175* or the "*Cybercrime Prevention*
2 *Act of 2012*" provides that, "The State recognizes the vital role of information and
3 communications industries such as content production, telecommunications,
4 broadcasting electronic commerce, and data processing, in the nation's overall social
5 and economic development."
6

7 WHEREAS, as early as 2021, several complaints have been raised regarding
8 the thousands of scam text messages received from random numbers offering
9 nonexistent jobs to unsuspecting victims. Referred to as smishing, it is classified as a
10 cybersecurity attack carried out over mobile text messaging wherein victims are
11 deceived into giving personal data that the perpetrators use to commit fraud.¹
12

13 WHEREAS, Globe Telecommunications, Inc., said that a total of 1.15 billion
14 smishing messages, around 7,000 mobile numbers linked to scammers, and 2,000
15 social media accounts and phishing sites, were blocked to protect its users in 2021.²

¹ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1519138/telcos-summoned-asked-to-do-more-vs-text-scams>

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1177118>

1 WHEREAS, to date, the aforesaid text scams are still continuously being
2 carried out by perpetrators who are taking advantage of the vulnerability of the
3 Filipinos by promising easy yet “too good to be true” money during the COVID-19
4 pandemic where unemployment rate is relatively high. According to PLDT and Smart
5 Communications, almost 78,000 SIMs related smishing were blocked from January
6 to May 2022 – “more than double” of the same period last year.³

7
8 WHEREAS, it is necessary to determine the adequacy of laws, rules and
9 regulations being implemented by the Department of Information and
10 Communication Technology (DICT), the National Telecommunications Commission
11 (NTC), National Privacy Commission (NPC) and other government agencies, against
12 the continuing surge of scam text messages which takes advantage of the
13 vulnerability of those whose jobs were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

14
15 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate
16 Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alarming rising
17 number of text scams, with the end in view of recommending legislative measures
18 that would ensure the protection and security of every Filipino against cybercrimes.

Adopted,


RONALD “BATO” DELA ROSA

³ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1177118>