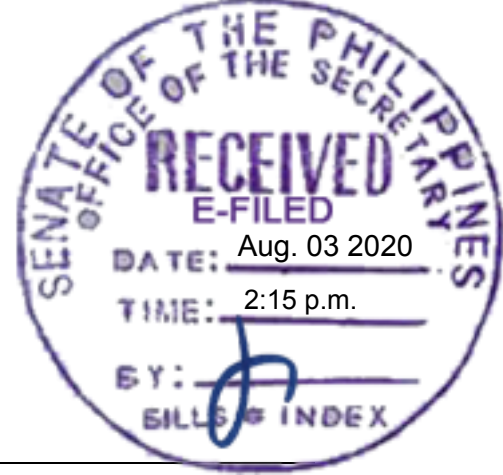


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. **487**



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING REPORTS OF**  
**ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES, IN**  
**THE LIGHT OF THE PROJECTED LONG TERM EFFECT OF THE COVID-19**  
**PANDEMIC WHICH WILL CONSIDERABLY INCREASE THE**  
**VULNERABILITIES OF CHILDREN, AND WITH THE END IN VIEW OF**  
**STRENGTHENING THE EXISTING LAWS ON THE PROTECTION OF**  
**CHILDREN**

***WHEREAS***, Article XV, Section 3, par. 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides that,  
*"The State shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and  
nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation  
and other conditions prejudicial to their development;"*

***WHEREAS***, Section 13, Article II of the Constitution also provides that *"the  
State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and  
protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall  
inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in  
public and civic affairs."*

***WHEREAS***, Article 34 of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the  
Child mandates that *"States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of  
sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in  
particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:*

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;*
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;*
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials."*

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to the aforesaid constitutional mandates and commitment to international laws, Congress has enacted Republic Act No. 9775 or the "*Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009*", Republic Act No. 7610 or the "*Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act*", Republic Act No. 9208 or the "*Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003*," as amended by Republic Act No. 10364, and Republic Act No. 10175 or the "*Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012*";

**WHEREAS,** the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) dubbed the Philippines as the "*global epicenter of the live-stream sexual abuse trade*" and tagged the Philippines as the top global source of child pornography in 2017;

**WHEREAS,** a study, published on 21 May 2020, conducted by the International Justice Mission, in partnership with the Philippine Government and a variety of stakeholders into the nature and scale of Online Sex Exploitation of Children (OSEC) in the Philippines, revealed that global enforcement data seemed to verify what OSEC investigators have long acknowledged, that the Philippines is an OSEC hotspot. The data indicates that the Philippines received more than eight (8) times as many referrals as any other country identified;

**WHEREAS,** the same study revealed that based from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), there were fewer than 50 Philippine Internet Protocol addresses used for online child exploitation in the Philippines reported to NMEC through CyberTipline reports in 2010 and 2011. But between 2012 and 2017, when there was an initial spike in reporting, there has been greater than 700% growth in the number of Philippine IP addresses reported to NMEC through CyberTipline

reports. The NCMEC is a private and non-profit corporation based in the United States of America whose mission is to reduce child exploitation and help find missing children;

**WHEREAS,** the said study further indicates that the problem of online sexual exploitation of children in the Philippines is serious and rising;

**WHEREAS,** the United States of America State Department official John Richmond, who oversees U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking, said in an online launch of the said study that "*the global shutdown with the COVID-19 pandemic seems to only be increasing these phenomena;*"

**WHEREAS,** the Department of Justice said that reports of online sexual exploitation of children increased by 264% as the country is struggling to contain the spread of covid-19 pandemic. The statement is based from NCMEC data which recorded a total of 279,166 cases from its Cyberline Tip Report (CTR) hotline from 1 March to 24 May 2020, from 76,561 reports during the same period in 2019;

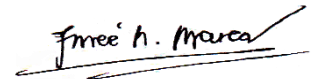
**WHEREAS,** UNICEF and the Child Rights Network reported that a number of factors in the Philippines allow for easy proliferation of online sexual exploitation of children. These include: widespread poverty, cheap internet and smartphones, ability to speak English, wide availability of money remittance centers, prevailing norms of secrecy, lack of parental supervision, sometimes caused by parents having to work abroad, and lack of resources to investigate and prosecute perpetrators, and rescue and rehabilitate victims;

**WHEREAS,** the projected long-term effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on our lives and livelihood and the upcoming implementation of the blended learning system by the Department of Education (DepEd), where children will undergo online classes, will considerably increase the vulnerabilities of our children to online sexual exploitation and other related crimes;

***WHEREAS***, in furtherance of our common goal to protect children from online sexual exploitations and other related crimes and to promote their total well-being and create an environment conducive to their normal development, there is a need to investigate the alarming reports of online sexual exploitation of children in the Philippines, in the light of the projected long term effect of the COVID-19 pandemic which will considerably increase the vulnerabilities of our children, and with the end in view of strengthening our existing laws on the protection of children;

***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 the alarming reports of online sexual exploitation of children in the Philippines, in the light of the projected long term effect of the COVID-19 pandemic which will considerably increase the vulnerabilities of children, and with the end in view of strengthening the existing laws on the protection of children.

*Adopted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Imee R. Marcos", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

**IMEE R. MARCOS**