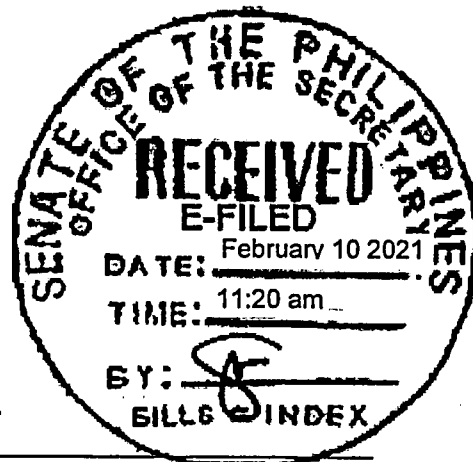


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 644



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ILLEGAL ONLINE ADOPTION
FACILITATED THROUGH FAKE FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS

1 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State that all matters relating to the care,
2 custody and adoption of a child, his/her interest shall be the paramount consideration;
3

4 WHEREAS, it is the duty of the State to provide alternative protection and
5 assistance through foster care or adoption for every child who is neglected, orphaned,
6 or abandoned;
7

8 WHEREAS, an article from the Philippine Star, dated February 8, 2021, reported
9 that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is working with the
10 National Bureau of Investigation and law enforcement agencies to track down groups
11 behind 48 fake Facebook accounts that claim to facilitate illegal online adoption;
12

13 WHEREAS, in an online forum on legal adoption organized by the DSWD as part
14 of the Adoption Consciousness Week, Wilma Naviamos of the DSWD's Program
15 Management Bureau said that they have already monitored and tracked down the
16 fake Facebook accounts and added that they do not encourage online adoption
17 because it is illegal;
18

19 WHEREAS, according to lawyer Bernadette Abejo, executive director of the
20 Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB), they have complained of these social media
21 accounts that claim to process online adoption which has been hard to track because
22 it is illegal. She stated that it will only come out when somebody files a case or a
23 complaint;
24

25 WHEREAS, the DSWD is pushing for prospective parents, who want to provide
26 abandoned, neglected and surrendered children in need of permanent families a
27 home, to go through the legal process. According to Glenda Relova, DSWD assistant
28 secretary for statutory programs and the Philippines' alternate representative to the
29 ICAB, said that in 2020, despite the lockdowns and restrictions on movements, they

1 continued to work on the processing of domestic and inter-country adoptions of
2 abandoned, neglected and surrendered children in need of permanent families;
3

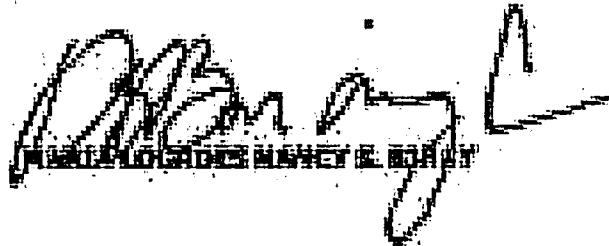
4 WHEREAS, despite the limitations in movement during the lockdown in 2020, a
5 total of 487 certifications declaring a child legally available for adoption was issued,
6 278 children were placed out for domestic adoption and 208 were issued with
7 intercountry adoption clearance;
8

9 WHEREAS, DSWD handled 312 cases of domestic adoption cases in 2019 and
10 278 in 2020. In addition, from 2009 to 2020, DSWD has cleared children numbering
11 4,396 and for children who were matched for inter-country adoption, an equivalent of
12 3,819;
13

14 WHEREAS, a Senate inquiry on the matter is necessary in order to address the
15 problem of illegal online adoption in the country;
16

17 BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate
18 Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported illegal online
19 adoption facilitated through fake Facebook accounts.
20

Adopted,



MANILA, PHILIPPINES MAY 15, 2021