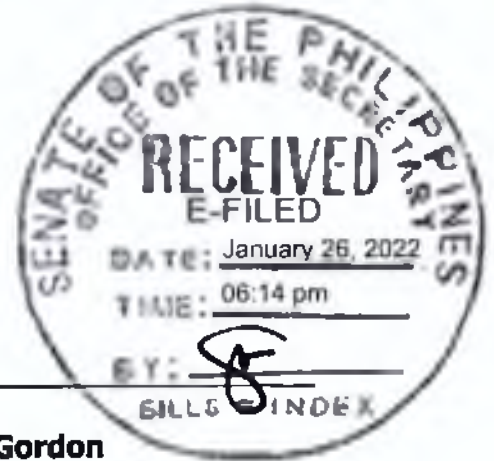


EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third (3^d) Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 987



Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UNABATED COMMISSION OF CYBERCRIMES, PARTICULARLY RESULTING IN THE THEFT FROM TEACHERS, PUBLIC SERVANTS, PRIVATE EMPLOYEES, AND BUSINESSES OF THEIR HARD-EARNED SAVINGS, AND WITH THE AIM OF STRENGTHENING EXISTING PERTINENT LEGISLATION ON CYBERCRIME PREVENTION, DATA PROTECTION, ELECTRONIC COMMERCE, INSURANCE, AND BANKING

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution provides that the Philippine National Government's fundamental duties are to serve and protect the Sovereign Filipino people¹;

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building² and "for the national benefit"³;

WHEREAS, the State also recognizes "the need to protect and safeguard the integrity of computer, computer and communications systems, networks, and databases, and the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information and data stored therein, from all forms of misuse, abuse, and illegal access" and as punishable under the law⁴;

WHEREAS, the Senate is compelled to act on the vicious commission of cybercrimes against the Filipino people, particularly against teachers and other public servants, private employees, and businesses taking away their hard-earned savings, violating their financial security⁵, assaulting their cybersecurity, and disregarding their rights;

¹ Const., Art. II (Declaration of Principles and State Policies), Section 4.

² Const., Art. II (Declaration of Principles and State Policies), Sec. 24.

³ Const., Art. XIV (Education, Science and Technology, Arts, Culture, and Sports), Sec. 12.

⁴ Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, Republic Act No. 10175, Sec. 2 (Declaration of Policy) (2012).

⁵ Bautista & Ramos. *More teachers cry cybertheft; NBI on it*. *Inquirer*, 26 Jan. 2022, available at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/154522/more-teachers-cry-cybertheft-nbi-on-it> (last accessed 26 Jan. 2022).

WHEREAS, on 26 January 2022, the Senate noted reports stating that “[m]ore teachers and non[-]teaching personnel of the Department of Education (DepEd) have complained about unauthorized withdrawals from their payroll accounts in Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank) and disputed claims of the state-run bank that they were victims of a “phishing” scam”⁶;

WHEREAS, Philippine law enforcement, such as the Philippine National Police (“PNP”), notes that “[f]or the past ten years, cybercrime in the country continued to evolve both in the manner of commission and in the use of mechanisms by cyber criminals to deter police investigation. With the continuing advancement in cyber technology and the rising popularity of social networking sites over the internet, the Philippines will remain open to cybercrime operations”⁷;

WHEREAS, the Department of Trade and Industry Consumer Protection Group reports a shocking surge in the number of online transaction complaints, with 512 recorded complaints for the year 2016 and 2,457 in 2019, being dwarfed by the figures for the first half of the year 2020 at 10,323 complaints⁸; **AND**

WHEREAS, in view thereof, the Senate must spearhead an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on strengthening existing pertinent legislation on cybersecurity in close cooperation with law enforcement such as the PNP’s Anti-Cybercrime Group, intelligence gathering agencies such as the National Bureau of Investigation (“NBI”), and foremost cybersecurity experts, whether in the public or private sectors, in order to adequately protect the Filipino people, particularly those most vulnerable and the financial security of their persons and families essentially relying on our collective cybersecurity.

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the unabated commission of cybercrimes particularly resulting in the theft from teachers, public servants, private employees, and business of their hard-earned savings, and with the aim of strengthening existing pertinent legislation on cybercrime prevention, data protection, electronic commerce, insurance, and banking.

Adopted,


RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ <https://www.pnp.gov.ph/main/about-us/20-a> *Philippine National Police, “Cybercrime in the Philippines,”* (last visited 26 January 2022).

⁸ Kris Crismundo, Gov’t to crackdown on online scammers, *BusinessWorld*, <https://www.bworld.net.ph/articles/1115273> (last visited 26 January 2022).