

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 253

Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE TO UNDERTAKE AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO DETERMINE AND MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) LOTTO GAMES

1 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1954, Republic Act No. 1169 was
2 passed enacting the corporate charter of the Philippine Charity
3 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Under its charter, the PCSO has the
4 authority to conduct charity sweepstakes races, lotteries and other
5 similar activities;

6
7 WHEREAS, in January 1995, the PCSO launched the first online
8 lottery in the Philippines known as the Lotto. Presently, a major part
9 of PCSO’s revenues comes from the sale of Lotto tickets. PCSO
10 Chairman Junie E. Cua reported that PCSO ticket sales have risen to
11 P25.92 billion pesos in the first half of this year¹;

¹ <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2022/08/30/471580/pcso-eyes-online-lotto-to-boost-yearly-revenue/> accessed on October 3, 2022

12 **WHEREAS**, during the initial years of the Lotto, the PCSO was
13 already beset with allegations of anomalies starting with its alleged
14 irregular deal with Philippine Gaming and Management Corp. (PGMC)
15 – Berjaya;

16
17 **WHEREAS**, as recently as July 2019, the Lotto operations were
18 shut down upon order of President Rodrigo Duterte because of
19 allegations of anomalies and corrupt practices on the part of PCSO
20 officials and/or employees;

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the common criticism leveled by the betting public
23 against the Lotto is the lack of transparency. Since the identity of the
24 winner is not revealed, the people are suspicious whether the conduct
25 of the lottery is above board. Also the reported lag time between the
26 announcement of the results and the announcement of the number of
27 winners leads people to suspect that this lag time is used to manipulate
28 and insert “lucky bettors” into the list of winners;

29
30 **WHEREAS**, the frequency of hitting the jackpot and the
31 presence of multiple winners despite the low probability of winning
32 (from 1 in 5,245,786 chances in the case of the 6/42 Lotto to 1 in
33 40,475,358 in the case of the 6/58 Ultra Lotto) heighten the suspicion
34 even more;

35
36 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, there were three (3) winners of the P286
37 million 6/58 Ultra Lotto jackpot in March, and again in September, two
38 (2) winners of the 6/58 Ultra Lotto jackpot of P257 million. In
39 February 2018, there were two (2) winners of the 6/58 Ultra Lotto
40 jackpot of P332 million, and again in October, two (2) winners of the
41 record-breaking jackpot of P1.18 billion of 6/58 Ultra Lotto. And in
42 February 20, 2020, there were ten (10) winners of the 6-Digit Lotto
43 jackpot.

44

45 **WHEREAS**, there have been several multiple winners this year
46 alone² — in January, there were four (4) winners of the P42.9 million
47 jackpot of 6/42 Lotto; in May, three (3) winners of the 6/42 Lotto
48 jackpot of P43.9 million; in June, two (2) winners shared the P73.8
49 million jackpot of the 6/49 Super Lotto; and the recent result of the 6/55
50 Grand Lotto is a contender for the Guinness Book of World records
51 where 433 winners reportedly picked the winning combination of
52 numbers;

53
54 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to make sure that the processes
55 involved in the conduct of the lotto games by the PCSO are honest and
56 free from any kind of fraud because they are State-sanctioned forms of
57 gambling and rely on their integrity for the successful raising of funds
58 for health programs, medical assistance and services, and charities of
59 national character;

60
61 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE**
62 **SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES** to direct the appropriate
63 committee of the Senate to undertake an inquiry in aid of legislation to
64 determine and maintain the integrity and trustworthiness of the
65 Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) lotto games.

Adopted,


AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III

² <https://www.pcsolotto.ph/pcso-lotto-jackpot-winners-2022/> accessed on October 3, 2022