

## NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

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## SENATE Proposed Senate Resolution No. <u>443</u>

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## Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

## A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON), TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ANOMALOUS PROCUREMENT BY THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) OF ITS THIRD-PARTY AUDITOR, GLOBAL COMRCI

WHEREAS, during the November 23, 2022 and January 23, 2023 hearings of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Chair, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, disclosed the questionable credentials and credibility of the third-party auditor procured by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to examine the revenues of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGO) in the country;

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WHEREAS, according to Sen. Gatchalian, PAGCOR failed to vet the qualifications and competence of the third-party auditor, Global ComRCI, which it awarded a ten (10)-year contract worth P6 Billion in 2017;

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WHEREAS, during the last hearing of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Sen. Gatchalian divulged that Global ComRCI has no office, lacks capital, has not been paying taxes, is not registered with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Securities and Exchange

Commission, and has not complied with other requirements of the Terms of Reference provided in the bidding documents of the PAGCOR;

WHEREAS, Sen. Gatchalian even said that PAGCOR got conned: "Ang assessment ko in short, *nabudol* ang PAGCOR". And for him, PAGCOR should rescind its contract with Global ComRCI;

WHEREAS, it is apparent from the foregoing that the third-party auditor, Global ComRCI, is not legally, technically, and financially capable to be a consultant of PAGCOR as required under our procurement rules and regulations, and should not have been awarded the contract for being ineligible and disqualified from the start;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit (COA) also found deficiencies in the processes of Global ComRCI in its audit of the POGOs in 2020;

WHEREAS, considering the huge amount involved for a multiyear contract of this magnitude, this matter should be further investigated for possible malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance and corruption on the part of the PAGCOR officials involved in the anomalous procurement of the said third-party auditor and possible conspirators in the private sector;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon), to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the anomalous procurement of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) of its third-party auditor, Global ComRCI, with the end in view of identifying accountability; making changes to our procurement laws and processes; amending the PAGCOR charter; and abolishing POGO operations in the country, if found necessary.

Adopted,

AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III