

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

23 JAN 30 P6:35

## SENATE

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P. S. RES. No. <u>452</u>

## Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

## RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE QUESTIONABLE PROCUREMENT BY THE PHILIPPINE GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) OF THE THIRD PARTY AUDITOR, GLOBAL COMRCI, TO AUDIT THE GROSS GAMING REVENUES OF THE PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATORS (POGOS) DULY LICENSED BY THE PAGCOR

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1869 mandates the PAGCOR to regulate
 games of chance, games of cards, and games of numbers;

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WHEREAS, pursuant to the said mandate, in a Memorandum dated 04
November 2016, PAGCOR'S POGO Ad Hoc Chairman recommended to the PAGOCR
Board of Directors that the intermediation platform or audit program for POGOs be
outsourced;

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WHEREAS, PAGCOR approved the procurement of a Consultancy Services for
 the Development, Operation, and Management of Intermediation Platform/Audit
 Program for the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations under ITB No. PB17-035COR 06 and the bidding process was undertaken under Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise
 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act;

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WHEREAS, on 26 October 2017, PAGCOR issued a notice of award to Global
 ComRCI, a consortium between Global Myoho Renge Copy, Inc; Highweb Trade LTD;

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and Comfac Corporation, (the "Global ComRCI Consortium") for a total annual contract
 price of Five Hundred Fifty Two Million Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred
 Twenty-Two Pesos (PHP552,215,322.00) payable per year for ten (10) years;

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5 WHEREAS, on 19 December 2017 a Notice to Proceed was issued to the Global
6 ComRCI Consortium;

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8 WHEREAS, under Par. 4 Section IV. Terms of Reference of ITB No. PB17-9 035COR-06, among the qualification standards for the consultant are: first, the 10 consultant must have an **operating capital of at least One Billion Pesos** 11 (PHP1,000,000,000.00); second, the consultant has **implemented similar project** 12 in at least three (3) other gaming jurisdictions with standards at par with or higher 13 than the Philippines; and third, the consultant must be **engaged in the same field** 14 **of business for not less than ten (10) years**;

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WHEREAS, under Par. 5 Section I. Request for Expression of Interest of ITB
 No. PB17-035COR-06, in case the bidders intend to enter into a joint venture
 agreement ("JVA") for the purpose of implementing the project, the JVA shall be
 registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC")
 prior to contract execution with PAGCOR;

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WHEREAS, in order to comply with the operating capital requirement, Global
 ComRCI Consortium submitted a Bank Certification from Soleil Chartered Bank (with
 address at Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Rd., Ortigas Commercial
 Center, Pasig City) that Global Myoho Renge Inc. has for its account Twenty-Five
 Million United States Dollars (USD25,000,000.00) "in compliance with PAGCOR POGO
 Consultancy Bidding as required Operating Capital for the award";

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WHEREAS, during the 4th Public Hearing conducted by the Committee on
 Ways and Means on 23 January 2023, PAGCOR confirmed that based on the said bank
 certification issued by Soleil Chartered Bank, PAGCOR has ruled that Global ComRCI
 Consortium passed the financial capability requirement for the project;

WHEREAS, however, in a letter dated 22 January 2023, the Bangko Sentral
ng Pilipinas ("BSP") certified that Soleil Chartered Bank is not among the
financial institutions registered with nor under the supervision of the BSP,
moreover, on the 4th Public Hearing conducted by the Committee on Ways and Means,
BSP confirmed that Soleil Chartered Bank is not authorized to issue such bank
certification as it is not registered with BSP;

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WHEREAS, further, the completed projects included in the bid submissions of
 the Global ComRCI Consortium are private projects *i.e.*, not projects with a
 government gaming regulator like PAGCOR hence, should not have been
 considered as similar to the consultancy services being procured by PAGCOR;

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WHEREAS, further, the incorporation documents of the members of the Global
 ComRCI Consortium bear that only Comfac Corporation has been in existence for more
 than ten (10) years however, it is not engaged in the same field of business as
 the consultancy services that is being procured by PAGCOR under ITB No. PB17 035COR-06;

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WHEREAS, while the members of the Global ComRCI have entered into a
 Consortium Agreement on 15 December 2017, it failed to register its Joint Venture
 with the SEC, as certified by SEC in its letter dated 25 November 2022, stating that
 no corporation or partnership under the name Global ComRCI is registered
 with SEC, in direct violation of Par. 5 Section I. Request for Expression of Interest of
 ITB No. PB17-035COR-06;

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WHEREAS, to make matters worse, the place of the office and/or
operation of Global ComRCI Consortium cannot be located;

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30 WHEREAS, while the address of the Globa ComRCI Consortium in the Notice 31 to Proceed is at 18/F the World Centre Bldg., 1330 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, the Business Permits Office of the City of Makati has issued a certification dated 09
 January 2023 that there is no business permit issued to Global ComRCI Consortium;

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WHEREAS, while PAGCOR mentioned during the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing of the 4 Committee on Ways and Means that the Third Party Auditor Global ComRCI 5 Consortium is operating in the City of Manila and based on the submissions made by 6 the PAGCOR the address of the Global ComRCI Consortium in Manila is at 39F Century 7 Peak Tower, Sta. Monica Street, Ermita, Manila. However, the Office of the Building 8 Official of the **City of Manila** has issued certifications dated 23 January 2023 stating 9 that from 2017 to even date, no business permit, occupancy permit and 10 **renovation permit** was issued by the City of Manila to Global ComRCI Consortium; 11 12

WHEREAS, the lack of technical capability of the Third Party Auditor and the consequent failure by the Third Party Auditor to determine the correct Gross Gaming Revenue may lead to the underpayment by the POGOs of the 2% Franchise Fees to PAGCOR and 5% Gaming Tax to the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Thus, it is indispensable that the qualifications of the Third Party Auditor be properly evaluated and established as its incapacity and inability to perform its job may lead to revenue loss on the part of the Government;

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21 WHEREAS, it is equally important to note that the consultancy services 22 awarded to an entity whose whereabouts is unknown amounts to a total of almost Six 23 Billion Pesos in the course of ten (10) years, thus, it is imperative that this seemingly 24 anomalous government procurement and public expenditure must be examined and 25 accounted for with zeal and vigor in order to maintain the trust and confidence of the 26 people to the government;

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**RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, to direct the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers And Investigations (Blue Ribbon) to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged irregularities on the procurement of Global ComRCI, the Third Party Auditor by PAGCOR, with the end in

- view of identifying accountability and making amendments to the procurement laws,
- <sup>2</sup> if necessary.

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Adopted,

WIN GATCHALIAN