

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



23 MAY 15 P1:59

SENATE
P. S. RES. No. 611

RECEIVED BY _____

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING INSIDE THE CLARK FREEPORT ZONE WHICH ARE BEING LINKED TO PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATORS (POGO), WITH AN END VIEW OF CRAFTING A LEGISLATION OR POLICY RECOMMENDATION, AS MAY BE NECESSARY.

1 WHEREAS, on May 4, 2023, law enforcers conducted a raid on the Colorful and
2 Leap Group Company located at Clark Sun Valley Hub¹, Clark Freeport Zone² which
3 led to the rescue of 1,090 individuals, of which, 389 are Vietnamese, 307 are Chinese,
4 171 are Filipinos, 143 are Indonesians, 40 are Nepalese, 25 are Malaysians, 7 are
5 Burmese, 5 are Thai, 2 are Taiwanese, and 1 from Hong Kong³;

6 WHEREAS, the raid was based on six search warrants and a warrant to search,
7 seize, and examine computer data issued by the Bulacan Regional Trial Court Branch
8 81 dated May 04, 2023, for violation of Republic Act (RA) No. 10364, or the Expanded
9 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012, in relation to Section 6 of RA No. 10175, or
10 the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012⁴;

¹ Dantes, C., Over 1,000 Human Trafficking Victims Rescued in Clark (May 05, 2023), available at: <https://manilastandard.net/news/314328123/over-1000-human-trafficking-victims-rescued-in-clark.html> (Date last accessed: May 10, 2023)

² Manabat, J., Trafficked Workers in Clark Given a Week to Lure Crypto Scam Trgets, Say Authorities, available at: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/trafficked-workers-clark-freeport-given-week-lure-targets-cryptocurrency-scams/> (Date last accessed: May 10, 2023)

³ Cabalza, D., 'Human Trafficking' Firm Busted in Clark (May 06, 2023), available at: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1765387/human-trafficking-firm-busted-in-clark> (Date last accessed: May 10, 2023)

⁴ *Id.*

1 WHEREAS, it is alleged that the rescued foreign nationals were forced to work
2 in a "fraudulent cyber-enabled industry" whose modus operandi is to lure victims to
3 invest in cryptocurrencies;

4 WHEREAS, the raided compound, where Colorful and Leap Group Company is
5 located, is suspected to be a POGO hub inside the Clark Freeport Zone⁵;

6 WHEREAS, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Philippine Amusement and
7 Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) will take a look at the licenses issued to POGOs following a
8 recent raid on a business processing company suspected to be involved in illegal
9 activities⁶;

10 WHEREAS, based on the information submitted by the National Bureau of
11 Investigation (NBI), there are 113 POGO-related cases recorded from 2017 to March
12 2023 and 65 of which are being investigated by the Anti-Human Trafficking Group of
13 the NBI;

14 WHEREAS, one of the state policies enunciated in no less than the 1987
15 Philippine Constitution is that "[t]he State values the dignity of every human person
16 and guarantees full respect for human rights"⁷;

17 WHEREAS, further to the foregoing, the 1987 Philippine Constitution prohibits
18 all forms of involuntary servitude except as a punishment for a crime whereof the
19 party shall have been duly convicted⁸;

20 WHEREAS, pursuant to the above-mentioned state policy, there is a need to
21 determine the lapses and loopholes in government processes that led to the facilitation
22 of human trafficking in Philippine soil that undermines the human dignity of the
23 trafficked persons and also violates their rights against involuntary servitude;

24 WHEREAS, in addition to the foregoing, the continued existence of POGOs and
25 its service providers, whether legitimate or illegitimate, that are involved in
26 criminalities continue to smear the name of the Philippines in the international
27 community, pose a threat to the peace and order in the country; and undermine the
28 safety of the Filipinos and foreign nationals in the Philippines

⁵ Dalizon, A. "11 Asian nat'l's face huan trafficking raps over Clark raid."

⁶ Cayabyab, M., "DOJ probes POGOs' 'link' to cybers cam (May 09, 2023), available at: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2023/05/09/2264829/doj-probes-pogos-link-cyber-scam> (Date last accessed: May 10, 2023).

⁷ 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 11.

⁸ *Id.*, Article III, Section 18 (b).

1 WHEREAS, based on the foregoing and on the alarming increase of human
2 trafficking incidents being linked to POGOs, there is a need to re-examine the
3 framework of the POGO operations in the Philippines, combat and stop the crimes
4 linked to POGOs, close down the POGOs involved in the commission of these crimes,
5 and arrest the persons behind it;

6 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to direct
7 the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
8 alleged human trafficking perpetuated inside the Clark Freeport Zone which are being
9 linked with POGOs, with an end view of crafting a legislation or policy
10 recommendation, as may be necessary.

Adopted,



WIN GATCHALIAN