

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



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**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. No. 668**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by: Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REGULATION OF PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATORS (POGOs), THE LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES, AND TO EVALUATE PAGCOR'S EFFECTIVENESS IN ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF POGO WORKERS**

1 WHEREAS, on June 27, 2023, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO)  
2 Joint Police Task Force, led by Deputy Regional Director for Operations Brig. Gen. Jack  
3 Wanky and Anti-Cybercrime Group Deputy Director for Operations, Col. Villammor  
4 Tuliao, raided and executed search and seizure warrants for computer data at a  
5 Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (POGO) Hub named Xinchuang Network  
6 Technology Inc. or Hong Tai;

7 WHEREAS, during the raid, 2,714 workers were rescued - 1,284 of which are  
8 foreign nationals, while 1,430 are Filipinos;

9 WHEREAS, the 1,284 foreign nationals are still being assisted by their  
10 respective embassy officials. The PNP stated that these foreign nationals include 687  
11 Chinese, 186 Vietnamese, 140 Indonesians, 135 Malaysians, 83 Thais, 18 Taiwanese,  
12 8 Nigerians, 8 Burmese, 5 Singaporeans, 2 Yemenis, 2 Pakistanis, 2 Chad, 1 Ivorian,  
13 1 Tunisian, 1 Arab, 1 Indian, 1 Somalian, 1 Sudanese, 1 Cameroonian, and 1 Iranian;

14 WHEREAS, the rescued foreign nationals claimed they worked for an online  
15 casino, with their shift starting from noon to midnight. Only a few workers were

1 allowed to leave the POGO complex, with those without proper work papers or  
2 documents barred from leaving;

3 WHEREAS, a POGO firm allegedly involved in human trafficking threatened to  
4 file charges against the NCRPO's joint task force for detaining the 2,714 reported  
5 victims in Las Piñas City. Officers of the NCRPO task force are being accused of  
6 physically abusing eight foreign nationals, three of which were Chinese who were  
7 "severely injured" because of the brutality exhibited towards them. They also claimed  
8 that the task force questioned the foreign nationals without the assistance of a lawyer;

9 WHEREAS, despite these complaints and allegations, the Philippine National  
10 Police (PNP) on Saturday, July 1, 2023, maintained that their operations are  
11 "legitimate" and were carried out on orders of a competent court;

12 WHEREAS, an undetermined amount of cash and several firearms were also  
13 seized by the raiding teams on the premises of Xinchuang Network Technology Inc.  
14 or "Hong Tai" Compound. Computers and phones were also seized for forensic  
15 examination to check if they were being used for illegal activities, such as crypto  
16 scams, love scams, and other investment scams;

17 WHEREAS, it is imperative to evaluate the regulation of POGOs and the role of  
18 the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) in overseeing their  
19 operations;

20 WHEREAS, PAGCOR is responsible for issuing licenses and regulating POGOs to  
21 ensure compliance with applicable laws, including those related to labor rights,  
22 immigration, and human trafficking;

23 WHEREAS, there have been reports of POGOs engaging in illegal activities, such  
24 as human trafficking, and allegations of violations of labor rights and abusive  
25 treatment of POGO workers;

26 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the coordination between  
27 PAGCOR and other relevant agencies, such as law enforcement, immigration  
28 authorities, and labor agencies, in addressing issues related to POGOs and protecting  
29 the rights of POGO workers;

30 WHEREAS, it is necessary to assess the effectiveness of PAGCOR in fulfilling its  
31 regulatory mandate, ensuring proper coordination with other agencies, and protecting  
32 the rights and welfare of POGO workers;

1           RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate  
2 Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the regulation of  
3 Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOS), the lack of coordination between the  
4 Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and other relevant  
5 agencies, and to evaluate PAGCOR's effectiveness in ensuring compliance with  
6 applicable laws and protecting the rights of POGO workers. The inquiry should include,  
7 but not be limited to, the following:

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9           1. Reviewing the existing laws, regulations, and policies governing POGOs and  
10 their compliance with international labor standards, anti-trafficking laws, and other  
11 relevant legislation;

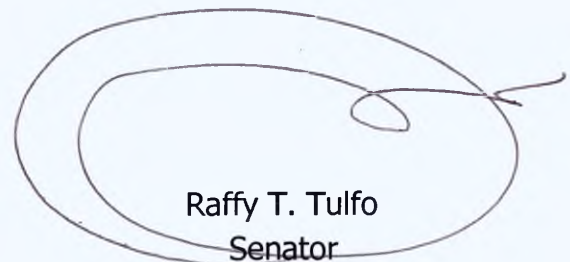
12           2. Assessing PAGCOR's regulatory practices, procedures, and enforcement  
13 mechanisms in overseeing POGOs and ensuring their compliance with applicable laws;

14           3. Evaluating the coordination and information-sharing mechanisms between  
15 PAGCOR and other relevant agencies to address issues related to POGOs, including  
16 human trafficking, labor rights violations, and illegal activities;

17           4. Examining the measures taken by PAGCOR to protect the rights and welfare  
18 of POGO workers, including monitoring working conditions, ensuring fair treatment,  
19 and addressing complaints and grievances; and

20           5. Proposing recommendations and legislative measures, if necessary, to  
21 strengthen the regulation of POGOs, enhance coordination between PAGCOR and  
22 other agencies, and safeguard the rights and welfare of POGO workers.

*Adopted,*



Raffy T. Tulfo  
Senator