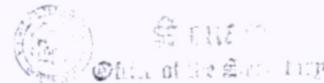


**SENATE**  
P.S. Res. No. 904



'18 SEP 24 P5:17

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED "*ROBOCALL*" MODUS WHICH HAS BEEN RECENTLY REPORTED/FEATURED ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND MAINSTREAM NEWS OUTLETS, ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES, AND ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE TYPES OF SCAMS ON OUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, AS REGULATED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7925 OR THE "*PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES*"

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 24 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides  
2 that the State shall recognize the vital role of communication and information in  
3 nation-building;

4 WHEREAS, Article XVI, Section 10 of our Constitution further directs the State  
5 to provide the policy environment for the emergence of communication structures  
6 suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation and the balanced flow of  
7 information into, out of, and across the country;

8 WHEREAS, finally, Article II, Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7925, or the "*Public*  
9 *Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines*" provides that telecommunications  
10 shall be developed and administered as to safeguard, enrich, and strengthen the  
11 economic, cultural social, and political fabric of the Philippines";

12 WHEREAS, recently, various social media posts as well as mainstream news  
13 outlets have reported a new "*robocall*" *modus operandi* which seeks to extort money  
14 from unwitting people by;

15

1           WHEREAS, the alleged *modus operandi* involves random citizens receiving a  
2 call from an unknown number, which upon answering will be a pre-recorded  
3 "robocall" which will accuse the caller of being involved in an illegal drugs case;

4           WHEREAS, upon answering the call, the pre-recorded *robocall* will play the  
5 following message:

6  
7           "*Paalala. Ito ang departamento ng pulisya ng lungsod. Para sa inyong*  
8 *kaalaman na kasalakuyang nasangkot ka sa isang nakabinbing kaso ng illegal*  
9 *na droga.*"

10          WHEREAS, upon playing said message, the *robocall* will prompt the recipient  
11 to press a number which will redirect them to a person who claims to be from the  
12 Philippine National Police;

13          WHEREAS, the "police officer" will then claim that the recipient's bank account  
14 received an amount of money from a known drug lord;

15          WHEREAS, for the recipient to clear his or her name, the "police officer" will  
16 ask for their real bank account number, along with other pertinent information such  
17 as their address and birthdate;

18          WHEREAS, these information can presumably be used to access the bank  
19 account of the unwitting victim and thus provide near-unlimited access to his or her  
20 savings;

21          WHEREAS, these calls cannot be traced as they appear to utilize some form of  
22 "Caller ID spoofing", wherein the number displayed is from another station;

23          WHEREAS, in some cases, the perpetrators have used caller ID spoofing to  
24 make it appear that they are calling using government numbers to provide an  
25 additional layer of believability and legitimacy;

26          WHEREAS, this new modus appears to be a high-tech version of the infamous  
27 "*Budol-Budol*" scam, in which the perpetrator gets the trust of the victim in order to  
28 rob him of his money and belongings;

29          WHEREAS, these "robocalls" add an additional layer of paranoia to a citizenry  
30 already-bombarded with unresolved controversies around the "War on Drugs";

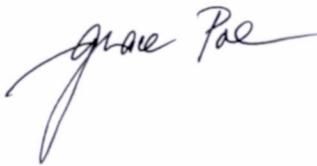
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1           WHEREAS, the perpetrators of this new "robocall" should be apprehended  
2 and prosecuted under the relevant laws, including but not limited to Act No. 3815 or  
3 the "*Revised Penal Code*"

4           WHEREAS, the relevant authorities should also consider investigating how the  
5 contact numbers of the victims were acquired, as the scam is usually done via  
6 telephone or cellphone, which suggests that those culpable have somehow acquired  
7 the contact details of a large number of the populace;

8           NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of  
9 the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services and Science and  
10 Technology to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged "*Robocall*"  
11 modus which has been recently reported/featured on social media and mainstream  
12 news outlets, on the actions taken by the relevant authorities, and on the  
13 implications of these types of scams on our telecommunications industry, as  
14 regulated under Republic Act No. 7925 or the "*Public Telecommunications Policy Act*  
15 *of the Philippines*"

*Adopted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grace Poe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.