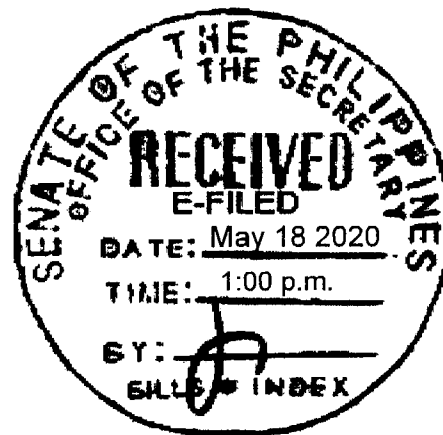


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 407



Introduced by **Senator Ana Theresa “Risa” Hontiveros-Baraquel**

RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE
DOMESTIC DISSEMINATION OF FOREIGN PROPAGANDA THROUGH
PHILIPPINE PUBLIC RADIO BROADCASTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) No. 297, the Philippine Broadcasting Service – Bureau of Broadcast Services (PBS) is mandated by law to provide broadcast information on the activities, policies, and directions of the government and the presidency, through the use of broadcast media throughout the country;

WHEREAS, in pursuit of its mandate, the PBS operates Radyo Pilipinas, the country’s flagship public AM radio station, as part of its Public Radio Broadcasting Program, for which purpose roughly 288 Million Pesos was appropriated in the 2020 national budget;

WHEREAS, in collaboration with China Radio International (CRI), PBS began broadcasting “Wow China”, ostensibly a light cultural program focusing on the shared traditions, culture, and history of China and the Philippines, sometime in 2018;

WHEREAS, despite claims by PBS that the show does not “espouse or promote a particular political view or cause”, Wow China has also aired material promoting the foreign policy of the Chinese Communist Party, such as criticism of the pro-Democracy movement in the Chinese territory of Hong Kong;

WHEREAS, in an investigative report by Reuters, CRI was revealed to be at the heart of a global radio broadcasting network of at least 33 stations in 14 countries organized for the purpose of covertly disseminating the Chinese government’s propaganda;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the ownership of the aforementioned radio stations was deliberately structured to obscure the fact that they were owned and controlled by CRI;

WHEREAS, Wow China appears to be part of a larger propaganda effort to legitimize the Chinese government’s aggressive foreign policy, particularly in disputed areas of the West Philippine Sea;

WHEREAS, this propaganda effort has included the release by the Chinese embassy of the “Isang Dagat” music video as well as inauthentic content disseminated through social media praising the Chinese government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, recent revelations about Cambridge Analytica and the improper use of personal data collected by Facebook, have highlighted the danger of foreign interference in domestic affairs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DOMESTIC DISSEMINATION OF FOREIGN PROPAGANDA THROUGH PHILIPPINE PUBLIC RADIO BROADCASTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

Adopted,

Risa Hontiveros
RISA HONTIVEROS