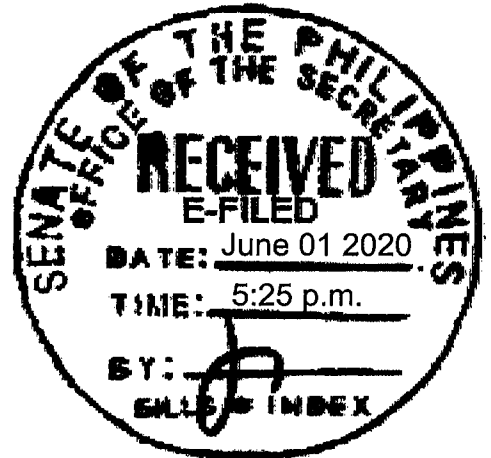


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 434

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INCREASE IN ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY DURING THE COVID-19 ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

- 1 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice Office of Cybercrime (OOC),
2 the reports of online sexual exploitation of children increased by 264 percent as the
3 country is battling the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic¹;
- 4 WHEREAS, according to the OOC, the National Center for Missing and Exploited
5 Children, a private and non-profit corporation in the United States whose mission is to
6 reduce child exploitation and help find missing children, recorded a total of 279,166 cases
7 from its Cyberline Trip Report hotline from March 01, 2020 to May 24, 2020 compared
8 to 76,561 reports during the same period in 2019²;
- 9 WHEREAS, OOC stated that the increase was attributable to the enhanced
10 community quarantine (ECQ), strict home quarantine observed in all households, and
11 internet usage surges as people stay home³;
- 12 WHEREAS, parts of the country were placed under ECQ on March 16, 2020 due to
13 the rise of COVID-19;
- 14 WHEREAS, the ECQ posed a barrier to detection because children have almost
15 no access to teachers or community members to whom they may disclose abuse or
16 display signs of abuse;

¹ Benjamin Pulta, Online child exploitation reports in PH surge amid Covid-19: DOJ, Philippine News Agency (May 25, 2020), <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1103852>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

1 WHEREAS, based on a study released by the Washington-based International
2 Justice Mission (IJM), the Philippines has emerged as a global hot spot for online child
3 sexual exploitation⁴;

4 WHEREAS, the spread of cheap, high-speed internet and the rise in mobile phone
5 ownership had fueled live streamed abuse⁵;

6 WHEREAS, according to IJM, online child sex abuse is largely a family-based crime
7 meaning home is the place of vulnerability and exploitation, rather than a place of safety.
8 IJM further stated that since 2011, more than half of those arrested for online child sex
9 abuse were parents, relatives or family friends⁶;

10 WHEREAS, a Philippine court has just sentenced a U.S. citizen who is based in the
11 country, David Deakin (Deakin), to life imprisonment for three counts of human
12 trafficking. Deakin had recorded child sex abuse and sold it to foreign customers online⁷;

13 WHEREAS, the UNICEF estimates 1.8 million children are being trafficked every year but
14 this does not include victims of cybersex trafficking⁸;

15 WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Senate to look into this matter to protect Filipino
16 children from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate directs the appropriate
18 Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported increase in
19 online sexual exploitation of children in the country during the COVID-19 enhanced
20 community quarantine.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES MANOBO S. BINAY

⁴ Jim Gomez, Study: Philippines a global hot spot for online child abuse, abc News (May 21, 2020), <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/study-philippines-global-hot-spot-online-child-abuse-70804205>.

⁵ Reuters, Online child sex abuse cases triple under lockdown in Philippines, interaksyon (June 1, 2020), <https://www.interaksyon.com/politics-issues/2020/06/01/169667/online-child-sex-abuse-cases-triple-under-lockdown-in-philippines>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.