

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*Third Regular Session*



**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 978**

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**INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO  
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE  
ALLEGED BREACH INTO THE SERVERS OF THE COMMISSION ON  
ELECTIONS AND THAT IMPORTANT DATA THAT CAN IMPACT THE  
RESULTS OF THE 2022 ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED.**

WHEREAS , the *Manila Bulletin* published an article on 10 January 2022 that reported an alleged breach into the servers of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

WHEREAS, remarkably, the said media report even specified the date of the supposed hacking as having been done on "*Jan. 8, 2022,*" referred to the perpetrators as "*a group of hackers,*" clarified the unlawful action done as a "*downloading*" of data, quantified the downloaded data to be "*more than 60 gigabytes,*" and even particularized the data obtained, which data the report characterized as those "*that could possibly affect the May 2022 elections.*"

WHEREAS, such details in the report of the alleged breach lend a measure of credence to the allegations.

WHEREAS, the enumeration in said article of the data supposedly obtained, which include among those mentioned, ***“network diagrams, IP addresses, list of all privileged users, domain admin credentials, list of all passwords and domain policies,”*** appear to be information that can conceivably be used to impact the results of the 2022 National and Local Elections, or work against the completion or orderly exercise of the elections, without overestimating the capabilities of hackers to utilize new or even old data used in past elections that remain in the servers of Comelec.

WHEREAS, the ***Manila Bulletin*** Technews team immediately reported the alleged hacking to Comelec Spokesperson James Jimenez who referred the same to the Comelec Steering Committee for appropriate investigation.

WHEREAS, prior to the present alleged incident, on 27 March 2016, a group identified as "Anonymous Philippines" hacked into the website of the COMELEC and left a message calling for tighter security measures on the vote counting machines (VCM), and before that as well, another group known as LulSecPilipinas also hacked into the Comelec's computer system and stole around 55 million voters' registration information.

WHEREAS, pursuant to ***Section 33 of Republic Act No. 8436***, entitled ***"Automated Election Law,"*** the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, composed of seven Members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives, was created to monitor and evaluate the implementation of aforesaid Act and to conduct a mandatory review of the same every twelve (12) months from the date of the last regular national or local elections.

WHEREAS, more recent news report that the Comelec has denied that there was a hacking that occurred, and that the Honorable Commission doubts the veracity of the report because some of the data allegedly downloaded have not yet been developed.

WHEREAS, the level of detail in the media report, notwithstanding the portions doubted by the Comelec, may require from the viewpoint of the general public, something more reassuring than a simple denial.

WHEREAS, the oversight duty imposed by law upon Congress, requires in part this august body to appreciate and measure for itself the credibility of the

aforesaid media report, and to obtain a better understanding of how the Comelec was able to disprove the actuality of the hacking.

WHEREAS, the same duty impels the Senate to see how a better reassurance of the security of the elections can be given to the voters who will exercise their right of suffrage and who are entitled to a clean, honest, and orderly election; as well as of the security of their personal data and their election registration records, including by way of example their precinct designations and fingerprints in the Comelec's Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing circumstances and the closeness of election day, there is an urgent need to conduct a review of the implementation of *Republic Act No. 8436* on account of the **alleged** repeated breaches in the computer system of the Comelec which compromises the credibility of our local and national elections.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE**, to direct the Committee on Electoral Reforms together with other appropriate Committee/s to conduct a comprehensive inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the veracity of the alleged breach of the Comelec servers reported by the *Manila Bulletin* on 10 January 2022, on how the Comelec was able to disprove the actuality of the said hacking, on the measures being undertaken by the Comelec to safeguard the information in its servers, and on the steps the Comelec is taking to reassure the public of their data security, all in implementation of *Republic Act No. 8436*.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO', is written over a faint, circular official stamp or seal.

**EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO**