

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



23 MAY -8 AIO :27

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 595

RECEIVED BY _____

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CYBER FRAUD OPERATIONS AT THE CLARK SUN VALLEY HUB CORPORATION INSIDE THE CLARK FREEPORT ZONE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ELIMINATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CYBER FRAUD INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY

1 WHEREAS, human trafficking is considered a modern form of slavery, and
2 often characterized as a transnational crime involving victims of all genders, ages,
3 and nationalities;¹

4 WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the United Nations Convention
5 against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocol, the "Protocol
6 to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and
7 Children";²

8 WHEREAS, Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003,
9 as amended by the Republic Act 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons
10 Act of 2012, were enacted to prevent human trafficking in the country;

11 WHEREAS, the data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
12 reports that a total of 12,881 foreign nationals were human trafficking victims
13 through force labor in the Philippines from 2007 to 2020;³

¹<https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/trafficking-in-human-beings>

² https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12&chapter=18&clang=_en

³ <https://dataunodc.un.org/dp-trafficking-persons>

1 WHEREAS, the April 19, 2023 hearing of the Senate Committee on Women,
2 Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality revealed the existence of “scam
3 hubs” in the Philippines that engage in cyber fraud operations and traffic foreign
4 workers into the country;⁴

5 WHEREAS, it was revealed during the aforementioned Senate hearing that
6 these “scam hubs” and the POGO operations in the country have some similarities in
7 their schemes and could be “simply just one operation that’s happening underneath
8 many operations”;⁵

9 WHEREAS, on May 4, 2023, a joint operation of different law enforcement
10 agencies headed by the PNP Anti-Cyber Crime Group (PNP ACG) rescued a total of
11 1,048 alleged human trafficking victims at the Clark Sun Valley Hub Corporation
12 inside the Clark Freeport Zone who were reportedly forced to engage in cyber fraud
13 involving cryptocurrencies;⁶

14 WHEREAS, the victims included 389 Vietnamese, 307 Chinese, 143
15 Indonesian, 40 Nepalese, 25 Malaysian, 7 Myanmar, 5 Thailand, 2 Taiwanese, 1
16 Hong Kong, and 129 Filipino nationals;⁷

17 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to determine the supposed existence and
18 cease the operations of these “scam hubs” in the country for the protection of our
19 citizens and foreign nationals that are being victimized by this kind of human
20 trafficking scheme;

21 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Immigration must explain the presence of these
22 foreign workers and show what kind of visas they hold;

23 WHEREAS, there is also a need for other law enforcement agencies such as
24 the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI),
25 Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC), and the Inter-Agency
26 Council on Anti-Trafficking (IACAT) to intensify their operations against human
27 trafficking of foreign nationals into the country;

⁴ <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/04/20/news/national/crypto-scam-hubs-operating-in-ph/1887898>

⁵ <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/4/19/ph-hosting-scam-hubs-hontiveros.html>

⁶ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/human-trafficking-victims-rescued-clark-may-4-2023>

⁷ *Ibid.*

1 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of
2 the Philippines, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported human
3 trafficking and cyber fraud operations at the Clark Sun Valley Hub Corporation inside
4 the Clark Freeport Zone with the end in view of eliminating human trafficking in
5 cyber fraud industries in the country.

Adopted,


GRACE POE