

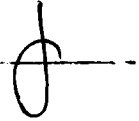
**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**

23 OCT 16 P12 :18

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 829

RECEIVED BY: _____



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE TROUBLING SERIES OF HACKING AND DATA BREACH INCIDENTS INVOLVING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE SUFFICIENCY OF PREVAILING CYBERSECURITY MEASURES IN GOVERNMENT, AND GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS FOR MALICIOUS CYBERATTACKS

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2023, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) suffered a cyberattack from Medusa Ransomware, with hackers gaining access to its online systems and demanding \$300,000 (P17 million); on October 2, 2023, PhilHealth admitted – despite earlier denials- that the data breach had compromised data in its custody, likely resulting in an unprecedented leak affecting massive amounts of Filipinos’ personal and sensitive personal information including names, addresses, phone numbers and other contact information, social security numbers, and health records;

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2023, the National Privacy Commission (NPC) announced its investigation against PhilHealth and its officials, stating it “will leave no stone unturned in its investigation into the potential negligence of PhilHealth officials and explore whether any efforts have been made to conceal pertinent information”; on October 10, 2023, NPC reiterated its “critical warning” on the PhiHealth incident;

WHEREAS, the following day, the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) announced that another government agency was involved in a data breach; on October 12, 2023, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) announced that “bad actors” had accessed its Community-Based Monitoring System, which also contained personal and sensitive personal information;

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2023, the House of Representatives became the next victim of a cyberattack- with its website defaced by a troll face meme taunting: “YOU’VE BEEN HACKED,” “HAVE A NICE DAY,” and the admonishing message: “HAPPY APRIL FULLZ KAHIT OCTOBER PALANG! FIX YOUR WEBSITE”;

WHEREAS, the State has an "inherent obligation to ensure that personal information in information and communications systems in the government and in the private sector are secured and protected" (Data Privacy Act, Republic Act No. 10173) and recognizes "the need to protect and safeguard the integrity of computer, computer and communications systems, networks, and databases, and the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information and data stored therein" (Cybercrime Prevention Act (Republic Act No. 10175));

WHEREAS, the breach of personal and sensitive information kept by government agencies endangers the safety and security of all Filipinos- leaving us even more vulnerable to increasingly nefarious schemes involving text message spams, online scams, phishing, financial fraud, extortion, blackmail, and identity theft; just in the first quarter of 2023- the Philippine National Police–Anti-Cybercrime Group reported that it had received a staggering 16,297 reports of various cybercrime cases, with thousands more undoubtedly unreported;

WHEREAS, it also calls into question the sufficiency of prevailing cybersecurity measures in government agencies handling sensitive information vital to national security, and there is a need to assess the current capacity of the government to secure critical strategic infrastructure from cyberattacks and other potential threats;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO CALL FOR THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE TROUBLING SERIES OF HACKING AND DATA BREACH INCIDENTS INVOLVING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE SUFFICIENCY OF PREVAILING CYBERSECURITY MEASURES IN GOVERNMENT, AND GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS FOR MALICIOUS CYBERATTACKS

Adopted.

Risa Montiveros
RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator