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SENATE

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P.S.R. No. <u>884</u>

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED CASES OF LARGE-SCALE HUMAN TRAFFICKING, RAPE, SEXUAL ABUSE AND VIOLENCE, AND CHILD ABUSE OF THE KINGDOM OF JESUS CHRIST (KOJC) UNDER ITS LEADER APOLLO QUIBOLOY

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9208 as amended, or the Expanded Anti Trafficking Act, penalizes the "recruitment, obtaining, hiring xxx of persons by means of xxx fraud, deception, taking advantage of their vulnerability xx for the purpose of exploitation xx" and imposes maximum penalties on acts involving the trafficking of minors and sex trafficking;

WHEREAS, Apollo Quiboloy, who styles himself as the Appointed Son of God and the leader of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ The Name Above Every Name (KOJC), allegedly demands strict obedience from his full-time followers through brainwashing, psychological manipulation and constant threats of eternal damnation;

WHEREAS, Quiboloy allegedly maintains a stable of women called "pastorals" who occupy a prestigious position in the organization because they are tasked to perform special personal tasks and errands for him;

WHEREAS, according to informants, the pastorals are divided into the "inner circle" and the "inner of the innermost circle", with the latter category being made to perform acts of a sexual nature and the former category being made to perform other personal tasks such as washing his clothes, bathing him, cleaning his bedroom and massaging him;

WHEREAS, some of these pastorals were still minors during their recruitment and during the period they were made to perform sexual services;

WHEREAS, Apollo Quiboloy allegedly coerces the members of the organization – many of whom are minors -- to perform exploitative acts, such as begging in the streets and soliciting money from strangers;

WHEREAS, according to informants, those who are not able to meet their quota of monies collected find themselves severely whipped, or subjected to public humiliation;

WHEREAS, a Federal Grand Jury in California in 2021 indicted Quiboloy and other officials of KOJC for "conspiracy to engage in sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion";

WHEREAS, considering that the crimes were committed within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines and considering that crimes are taking place even at present as Quiboloy remains free to run the operations of KOJC, it is imperative that an investigation be undertaken with dispatch;

WHEREAS, an investigation in aid of legislation will also allow us to determine whether our updated human trafficking laws are able to cover large-scale and systemic acts of trafficking done under the cover of a religious organization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE THE REPORTED CASES OF LARGE-SCALE HUMAN TRAFFICKING, RAPE, SEXUAL ABUSE AND VIOLENCE, AND CHILD ABUSE OF THE KINGDOM OF JESUS CHRIST UNDER ITS LEADER APOLLO QUIBOLOY.

Adopted.

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PISA HONTIVEROS RISA HONTIVEROS Senator