

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

House Resolution No. 497



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF PROSTITUTION DENS CATERING EXCLUSIVELY TO PHILIPPINE GAMING OFFSHORE OPERATORS (POGO) WORKERS, WITH THE END VIEW OF PROPOSING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO CURB THE PRESENCE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN OUR COUNTRY

WHEREAS, in less than a month, three (3) separate raids were conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on prostitution dens in Metro Manila catering exclusively to Chinese POGO workers;

WHEREAS, these prostitution dens are deceptively organized as legitimate businesses, often as videoke bars or as spa and wellness centers to cover their illicit operations and to effectively evade the police authorities;

WHEREAS, the act of prostitution or exploitation of others is punishable under Article 202(5) of the Revised Penal Code and under Republic Act No. 9208, as amended, or the "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act";

WHEREAS, under the principle of generality in criminal law, Philippine penal laws are binding on all persons who live or sojourn in the Philippine territory, including foreigners;

WHEREAS, under the principle of territoriality in criminal law, Philippine penal laws are applicable to all crimes committed within the limits of the Philippine territory, including those committed by foreigners;

WHEREAS, it is alarming that there are existing establishments in Metro Manila that cater exclusively to POGO workers, palpably demonstrating the situation that these workers are building a community in our country little by little;

WHEREAS, the influx of these POGO workers in our country are also saddled with various immigration and labor issues, as some of these foreigners stay here without valid travel documents and work permits;

WHEREAS, Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Oscar Albayalde had gone on record saying that concerns over our national security cannot also be disregarded, as there are POGOs that are established near our military bases;

WHEREAS, while it is important to maintain good relations with other countries by being hospitable and welcoming to foreign nationals, it is equally imperative to enhance the effectiveness of our existing laws, rules, and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to direct the appropriate committees to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the proliferation of prostitution dens catering exclusively to POGO workers, with the end view of proposing remedial measures to curb the presence of illegal immigrants in our country;

ADOPTED,



PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO
/rs