

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1247



Introduced by HON. DAN S. FERNANDEZ, HON. RODANTE D. MARCOLETA, HON.
JESUS CRISPIN C. REMULLA, HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA JR..

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE DUBIOUS OPERATIONS OF
SABONGINTERNATIONAL.COM AND THE PROLIFERATION OF SIMILAR ONLINE
COCKFIGHTING SCHEMES OUTSIDE LICENSED COCKPITS WITH A FACILITY
FOR BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL BETTING**

WHEREAS, there is an evident variance in the conduct of traditional cockfighting and E-Sabong;

WHEREAS, traditional cockfighting requires the placing of bets inside the cockfighting arena;

WHEREAS, the requirement of physical presence is absent in E-Sabong and allows bettors to place their bets and collect their winnings through electronic means, making the activity effectively borderless;

WHEREAS, sabonginternational.com illegally caters to both local and offshore players through online betting;

WHEREAS, the conduct of sabonginternational.com of E-Sabong is likely happening in a studio, room or any controlled environment, using a green screen in order to simulate a licensed cockpit;

WHEREAS, PD 449 allows cockfights only inside licensed cockpits;

WHEREAS, the sabonginternational website has a downloadable Party Sabong mobile app and allows deposits through GCash, MLhuilier and Cebuana that can be credited to the player's account;

WHEREAS, the lack of a clear regulatory framework on E-Sabong effectively deprives the government of licensing fees and taxes that should be placed on such activity;

WHEREAS, the lack of a clear regulatory framework on E-Sabong also deprives bettors of the confidence they should possess with transparency and well-established rules on the conduct of the activity;

WHEREAS, E- Sabong can mean the livestreaming of cockfights or betting at Off-Track beating OTBs) stations;

WHEREAS, Article 199 of Revised Penal Code makes it illegal to participate in cockfights other than a licensed cockpit;

WHEREAS, The Presidential Decree (P.D.) 449 or the Cockfighting Law 1974 which expressly repealed Article 199 has no similar provision and does not expressly prohibit betting remotely or from a place other than where the cockfighting in a licensed cockpit is being conducted;

WHEREAS, such lack of prohibition on remote betting is significant in light of the well-entrenched rule that the penal laws are to be construed strictly against the State and in favor of the accused;

WHEREAS, the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) is of the Opinion that the E-Sabong is permissible as long as the cockfight being broadcasted is in from a licensed cockpit;

WHEREAS, the OSG is also of the Opinion that PAGCOR can be argued to be able to regulate E-Sabong as a regulator of games of chance allowed by law since a Local Government Unit (LGU) can only regulate local cockfighting in the place of their jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, PAGCOR is of the Opinion that they should regulate E-Sabong as it is currently without any legislative fiat;

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is of the Opinion that the PAGCOR has no authority to regulate E-Sabong service providers through the issuance of a Regulatory Framework for the Accreditation of Electronic Sabong System Service Provider (E-Sabong Service Provider);

WHEREAS, the conflicting opinions give rise to a legitimate question of law based on same facts;

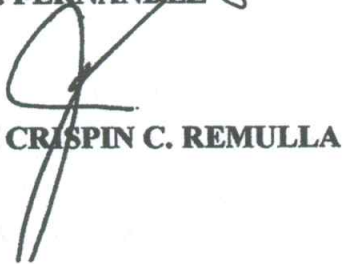
WHEREAS, in the absence of clarity on the law and the lack of regulations on such activity, the conduct of E-Sabong, especially those that happen outside licensed cockpits, should be stopped and its operators apprehended;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the dubious operations of sabonginternational.com and the proliferation of similar online cockfighting schemes outside licensed cockpits with a facility for both local and international betting.

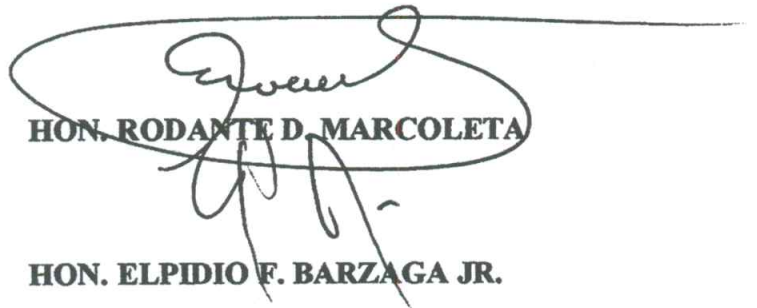
ADOPTED,



HON. DAN S. FERNANDEZ



HON. JESUS CRISPIN C. REMULLA



HON. RODANTE D. MARCOLETA

HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA JR.