



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

18th Congress
First Regular Session

Office of the Minority Floor Leader

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 337

INTRODUCED BY REP. BIENVENIDO “BENNY” M. ABANTE, JR., REP. EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA, REP. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON, REP. MANUEL LUIS T. LOPEZ

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON THE ALLEGATIONS OF UNREGISTERED FOREIGN WORKERS, NON-PAYMENT OF INCOME TAXES, RELATIVE TO PHILIPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATORS (POGO) INDUSTRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, AND RELATED ISSUES ON THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECTION 25 OF 1997 NIRC ON NON-RESIDENT ALIENS, IMMIGRATION RULES AND REGULATIONS AND THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, WITH THE VIEW OF AMENDING EXISTING LAWS RELATIVE TO EFFECTIVE REVENUE COLLECTION FROM FOREIGN WORKERS AND EFFECTIVELY REGULATE THE POGO INDUSTRY WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

- 1 **WHEREAS**, as of April 2019, the Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE)
2 reportedly estimate that there are 76,936 individuals currently working in 165 Service
3 Providers of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operation (“POGO”). Out of this figure,
4 63,855 or 82.9 % are foreign nationals, while 13,081 or 17.1% are Filipinos. At least
5 87.9% or 56,180 are Chinese, 2.9% or 1,862 are Vietnamese and 2.5% or 1,586 are
6 Indonesian. But these numbers could still change as 27 licensed POGO firms have yet to
7 submit their list of foreign employees;
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9 **WHEREAS**, according to DOLE, there are 138,000 foreign workers in the Philippines,
10 mostly Chinese nationals employed by POGOs. Of this, 83,760 have Special Work
11 Permits (SWP) and 54,240 have Alien Employment Permits (AEP), which as of date, has
12 not been verified by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);
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14 **WHEREAS**, given the unprecedented influx of foreign workers for POGOs, which
15 have established POGO hubs in what Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana reportedly

16 maintained as strategically located and the statement of DoF Secretary Carlos
17 Dominguez that the Philippines have foregone about P2 Billion in revenues, and a mere
18 inter-agency joint memorandum circular was issued to regulate the employment of
19 foreign nationals, there is a clear need on the part of the House of Representatives to
20 conduct an investigation regarding these allegations and the way that the government is
21 handling the situation, in order to legislate measures that will clearly regulate the POGO
22 industry;

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24 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives direct
25 the appropriate House Committee to conduct an investigation and inquiry, in aid of
26 legislation, on the allegations of unregistered foreign workers, non-payment of income
27 taxes, relative to the POGO Industry, and the related issues on the effective
28 implementation of Section 25, 1997 NIRC, Immigration Rules and Regulations and the
29 Labor Code of the Philippines, due to the unprecedented influx of foreign workers for
30 the POGO Industry, with the view of amending existing laws relating to effective
31 revenue collection from foreign workers and effectively regulate the POGO Industry
32 without detriment to the Filipino people and its workers.

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34 Adopted,

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38 BIENVENIDO "BENNY" M. ABANTE, JR.

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42 EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

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