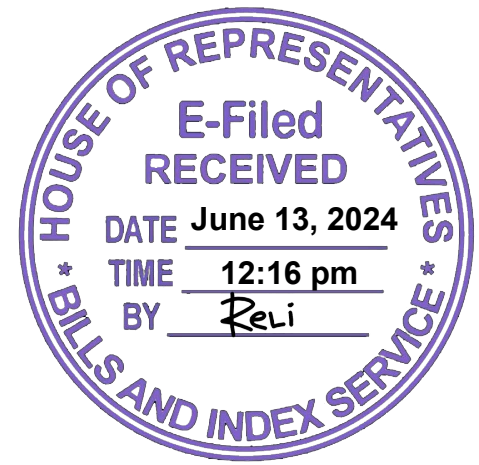


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10527



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is host to more than 300 illegal Philippine offshore gaming operator (**POGO**) hubs in various parts of the country, according to the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (**PAOCC**).

There are about 300-plus illegal POGO hubs, According to **PAGCOR** (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.), only around 48 or 49 registered with them and secured an IGL or internet gaming license. The rest of the 300-plus did not register as operating without a license.

The extent of the problem as **PAOCC** continues with its search of the more than 40 POGO hubs that it raided last week in Porac, Pampanga.

Investigators also discovered equipment used for scams, as well as torture rooms and illegal drugs.

Filipinos are hired as workers in services such as laundry, security. But those mostly in POGO hubs are foreigners.

At least 160 foreigners were taken into custody from the POGO hub, at least 126 are Chinese nationals.

they also have names for Chinese and Filipino nationals in the SEC registration of the POGO hub.

The director of the Pampanga Police Provincial Office was relieved from his post amid the ongoing investigation into the POGO hubs.

This is clear evidence that POGOs are a national security threat to our nation.

This has opened the doors, not only to criminal syndicates but also to those who want to destabilize and infiltrate our governmental and political institutions.

This is another reason why the administration should no longer allow them to operate in our country.

This House Bill seeks to provide a strongly wholistic approach through strategic collaborations to effectively battle crime and corruption in the Philippine government, thus providing modernization funding to the **presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC)**.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10527**

Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE **PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME COMMISSION (PAOCC)**, TO PROVIDE A STRONG WHOLISTIC APPROACH THROUGH STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS, TO EFFECTIVELY BATTLE CRIME AND CORRUPTION, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE — This Act shall be known as the **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC) modernization Act of 2024.**

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY — It is a declared policy of the State in conformity with the mandate of the Constitution, to provide a strong security network.

the **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC)** has the authority to take cognizance of crimes committed by organized/syndicated crime groups, heinous crimes, members of the Philippine

national police and the armed forces of the Philippines, and other offenses deemed appropriate by the president. as having priority over its other functions.

SECTION 3. MODERNIZATION FUNDING. – The amount of Two Billion Pesos (**Php 2, 000,000,000.00**) for the operation and administration of the **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC)** shall be chargeable against funds for the purpose and other sources recommended by the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)**.

Thereafter, appropriations for the **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC)**, shall be included in the budget proposals under the **Office of the President**.

The Department of Budget and Management (**DBM**) shall rationalize the existing organizational structure and staffing pattern of the **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC)** in accordance with the prevailing provisions and relevant compensation and position classification laws, rules and regulations.

Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the modernization program shall be included in the annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**.

SECTION 4. PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME COMMISSION (PAOCC) MODERNIZATION FUND – There is hereby created the **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC) Modernization Fund** to be used exclusively for the **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC) Modernization** Program.

The **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC)** Modernization Fund shall be administered by the **Office of the President** in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. PROGRESS REPORT – The **Office of the President** shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC)** Modernization Programs which shall be submitted, to the **President of the Republic** and to the Chairpersons of the Committee on National Defense and Security of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SECTION 6. INCREASE OF PERSONNEL. – The **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC)** shall maintain a sufficient staffing pattern.

Hence, it is authorized to increase its manpower to meet such required and may continue to increase personnel per percentage rate increase of committed mandates annually or as the need arises.

SECTION 7. PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented for an initial period of three **(3)** years:

Provided, that payments for multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period:

Provided, further, That the **Presidential anti-organized crime commission (PAOCC)** shall continue to develop, modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

SECTION 8. SUPERVISING AND ASSESSMENT CONCERNS. — the **Office of the President**, shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure effective operations and build-up.

SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY. — Office of the President

SECTION 10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. — Within ninety **(90)** days from the effectivity of this Act, the **Office of the President** shall, in consultation with other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 11. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the **IRR** or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

The agencies concerned shall provide for the continued maintenance, operation, and management of all the facilities and equipment.

SECTION 12. PERIODIC REPORTS - The **Office of the President** shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by both Congress and Senate and the appropriate departments, in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

SECTION 13. AUTOMATIC REVIEW - Every three **(3)** years after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the **President of the Republic** shall review the policies and programs in the defense and security sector and shall make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 14. PENAL CLAUSE. – Any person, whether natural or juridical, violating any section of this Act shall, upon conviction, therefore, be liable to a fine of not less than five hundred thousand pesos **(P500,000.00)** or

imprisonment for a term not less than six **(6)** years, or both, at the discretion of the court for each and every violation.

In case the violation is committed by a corporation or an association, the penalty shall devolve upon the president, director, or any other officer responsible for such violation.

SECTION 15. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 16. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 17. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,