

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 42



Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “Atty. Nat” M. ODUCAO**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
INTO THE SCOPE, HARMS, AND REGULATORY CHALLENGES OF ONLINE
GAMBLING IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9487 authorizes the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to regulate games of chance, including internet-based gaming and online gambling activities, for the purpose of safeguarding public welfare and promoting national revenue generation;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 13, Series of 2023, reiterates this regulatory mandate by banning all unauthorized forms of online gambling and directing enforcement coordination among PAGCOR, the Philippine National Police (PNP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT);

WHEREAS, despite existing regulations, the rapid growth of online gambling platforms, including locally licensed e-casinos, Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs), and cryptocurrency-based betting networks, has generated widespread concern over financial exploitation, mental health risks, and exposure to criminal activity;

WHEREAS, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. issued Executive Order No. 74, Series of 2024, ordering the phased cessation of all POGO operations following confirmed cases of human trafficking, cyberfraud, and other criminal offenses linked to POGO-related activities;

WHEREAS, enforcement operations by the Department of Justice (DOJ), the NBI, and the PNP in 2023 and 2024 uncovered torture rooms, scam call centers, and illegal detention facilities operating inside gambling hubs in Pampanga and Las Piñas, raising serious national concerns about human rights violations and organized crime;

WHEREAS, a 2024 nationwide survey by Capstone-Intel and Kadence International revealed that 66% of Filipino internet users aged 18 to 40 years engage in online gambling, while 57% of those aged 41 to 55 are also active users with male participation rates reaching 70%, while 58% of women were reported to engage in online gambling activities. Further survey data indicated that 32% of female respondents regularly played online bingo, often wagering less than ₱1,000 per session. The game was found to be particularly appealing to homemakers and unemployed women;

WHEREAS, over 50% of surveyed online gamblers come from lower-income households earning between ₱9,000 and ₱18,200 per month. Additionally, 18% of active users were identified as homemakers or unemployed, highlighting the high participation of economically vulnerable groups. The Philippine Psychiatric Association estimates that 1% to 3% of Filipino adults may meet the diagnostic criteria for gambling disorder, with elevated risk among young people, low-income earners, and individuals with pre-existing psychological vulnerabilities;

WHEREAS, only 1% of gamblers reported any improvement in their financial situation due to gambling, while nearly 9.8% reported becoming poorer. Documented personal losses include an individual who lost over ₱20 million, a 38-year-old executive who lost ₱5 million during the COVID-19 pandemic, and social media accounts reporting individual losses ranging from ₱150,000 to ₱3 million within a few weeks;

WHEREAS, users often resort to loans, credit cards, and digital wallets to fund gambling, contributing to worsening debt cycles, financial ruin, and increasing family conflict. Reported harms also include mental health deterioration, suicide attempts, and declining work performance. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has proposed additional safeguards for gambling-related transactions, including stricter controls over e-wallets and mobile payment systems to curb illicit financial flows and limit consumer harm;

WHEREAS, no single government agency currently exercises centralized regulatory authority over all digital gambling activities in the Philippines, resulting in fragmented enforcement, gaps in jurisdiction, and a limited public health response. Thus, showing the deep-rooted grasp of online gambling in the Philippine society that outweighs eradication rather than regulation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives direct the appropriate committee, in aid of legislation, to conduct a full inquiry into the online gambling industry in the Philippines to curb its pernicious effects in the Philippine society, most especially amongst the vulnerable.

Adopted,


REP. NATHANIEL “Atty Nat” M. ODUCADO
1Tahanan Party List