

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 44



INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, THE NATIONAL PRIVACY COMMISSION, AND THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TO INVESTIGATE AND TAKE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST ENTITIES LIABLE FOR MISUSING SENSITIVE PERSONAL DATA AND AGAINST THE RECENT PROLIFERATION OF SPAM AND PHISHING TEXT MESSAGES

WHEREAS, for the past months, this Representation has been receiving unsolicited text messages everyday about alleged employment offers and raffle prizes all linking to suspicious hyperlinks that, according to Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group (PNP-ACG), are possibly connected to new online modus operandi of cybercriminals and their websites¹;

WHEREAS, this experience is not unique to this Representation and almost every Filipino, whether using prepaid or postpaid lines, have received and possibly have fallen prey to these spam and phishing text messages;

WHEREAS, on 22 November 2021, for instance, a major telecommunications provider has reported that its cybersecurity and data privacy team had deactivated 5,670 confirmed spam and phishing numbers and blocked 71 million spam and phishing messages this year²;

WHEREAS, the telecommunications provider has also revealed that the surge in unsolicited marketing campaigns from digital marketers or spammers use “existing databases culled from public information or online data”;

¹ <https://acg.pnp.gov.ph/main/cyber-security-bulletin/388-acg-cyber-security-bulletin-nr-227-understanding-the-risk-of-spam-messages-scam.html>

² <https://mb.com.ph/2021/11/22/globe-blocks-71m-spam-messages-deactivates-over-5k-spam-numbers/>

WHEREAS, amid the pandemic, the country's Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) has received a 57% increase of reports of suspicious transactions indicating a surge in financial scams³;

WHEREAS, this spate of unwanted text messages in forms of spams, scams, and phishing attempts are not only an inconvenience to Filipino consumers, but also indicate a clear breach of data privacy and a possible illegal sale of private data, violating Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012;

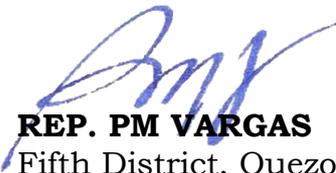
WHEREAS, if left without effective intervention, these criminal activities will continue to proliferate and victimize vulnerable citizens and pose inevitable risks to our right to privacy and security;

WHEREAS, although the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), the National Privacy Commission (NPC), and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have been dedicated in implementing the Data Privacy Act, recent developments have highlighted the need to increase enforcement efforts to ensure that entities and stakeholders are compliant with and protected by the law;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the government to protect consumers and the fundamental human right to privacy and stop those who take advantage of the grim situation of the pandemic for their own interests by breaching the data privacy of individuals and proliferating spam and scam text messages;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to urge the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), the National Privacy Commission (NPC) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to investigate and take appropriate legal actions against entities liable for misusing sensitive personal data, and against the recent proliferation of spam text messages.

Adopted,


REP. PM VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-20/philippines-sees-surge-in-financial-scams-during-pandemic>