

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session**

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**SENATE
P.S. RES. No 1054**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator WIN GATCHALIAN

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE REPORTED UNLAWFUL SIM
USE IN ILLEGAL POGO OPERATIONS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RE-
EVALUATING AND STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 11934 AND OTHER RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act (RA) No. 11934 or the SIM Registration Act was
2 signed into law on 10 October 2022 to establish accountability in the use of a
3 subscriber identity module (SIM), to provide law enforcers with tools to track
4 perpetrators of crimes committed through the use of SIMs and to deter the use of
5 SIM-related technology in various illegal or scamming activities;¹
6 **WHEREAS**, despite the enactment of RA 11934 and other relevant laws,
7 reports show a continuous discovery of registered SIM cards, cellphones, computers,
8 pocket wifi devices, and scripts that were used for love scams, romance scams,
9 cryptocurrency scams and other scam activities in illegal POGO operations, causing
10 significant concern on the rise of organized crime groups run by foreigners and/or
11 Filipinos perpetrating cybercrimes, causing financial losses, and posing a serious threat
12 to data privacy among unsuspecting or unwary victims;²

¹ RA 11934, otherwise known as the SIM Registration Act.

² Recuenco, Aaron. Manila Bulletin News: From offshore gaming to love scam: Link of some POGOs to online scamming activities discovered (14 March 2024, 10:20pm). Available at <https://mb.com.ph/2024/3/14/from-offshore-gaming-to-love-scams-link-of-some-pog-os-to-online-scamming-activities-discovered>. Last accessed on June 15, 2024; Dantes, Charles. Manila Standard News: PNP traces ties to Bamnan POGO operations (09 June 2024, 12:40am). Available at

1 **WHEREAS**, young and tech-savvy individuals are enticed into participating in
2 illegal activities, such as money laundering, cryptocurrency fraud, and love scams,
3 which typically begin with the perpetrator assuming a false identity to win the victim's
4 affection and trust and exploiting the illusion of a romantic or intimate relationship to
5 manipulate or defraud the victim, often by convincing them to invest in fraudulent
6 schemes or businesses;³

7 **WHEREAS**, during the execution of a warrant to seize and examine computer
8 data from the raided Zun Yuan Technology Inc. on March 22 and 23 this year, law
9 enforcers recovered assorted SIM cards, along with hundreds of cellular phones and
10 digital devices, presumably used to execute fraudulent transactions.⁴

11 **WHEREAS**, more recently, authorities also discovered devices used for cloning
12 SIM cards and for sending out text blasts in the POGO-raided premises in Porac,
13 Pampanga;⁵

14 **WHEREAS**, these mounting concerns on the use of SIM cards in illegal POGO
15 operations to facilitate money laundering, cybercrime and other illegal activities not
16 only undermines the objectives of RA 11934 but also highlights the potential link
17 between POGO operations and these associated illegal activities;

18 **WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon the government to safeguard unwary or
19 unsuspecting Filipinos against any harm caused by fraudulent activities facilitated by
20 cybercriminals, including POGO operations that serve as scam hubs to perpetrate the
21 commission of crimes;

22 **WHEREAS**, relevant government agencies and telephone companies should
23 be able to identify irresponsible subscribers or registrants who give away their SIM
24 cards or let other people use their particulars to sign up for SIM cards. They should

<https://manilastandard.net/news/top-stories/314457058/porac-pogo-hub-likely-involved-in-love-scams.html>. Last accessed on June 15, 2024.

³ Simonette, Virma and Ng, Kelly. BBC News: Hundred rescued from love scam centre in the Philippines (14 March 2024). <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-68562643>. Last accessed on June 15, 2024.

⁴ Daily Tribune: POGO legal cover for human trafficking?. Available at <https://tribune.net.ph/2024/04/24/pogo-legal-cover-for-human-trafficking>. Last accessed on May 27, 2024.

⁵ GMA Integrated News: PAOCC, police to wrap up search of Porac POGO hub (June 15, 2024, 11:12am). Available at <https://www.qmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/910140/paocc-police-to-wrap-up-search-of-porac-pogo-hub/story/>. Last accessed on June 15, 2024.

1 also be able to identify who supply SIM cards that are either stolen or transferred
2 without complying with RA 11934;

3 **WHEREAS,** relevant government agencies must collaborate to develop and
4 implement effective interventions designed to curtail the rampant unlawful use of SIM
5 cards in illegal POGO operations;

6 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** as it is hereby resolved, to direct the
7 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
8 reported unlawful SIM use in illegal POGO operations with the end in view of re-
9 evaluating and strengthening the effectiveness of relevant and related laws and
10 policies.

11 Adopted,



WIN GATCHALIAN