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SENATE
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RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEES ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING OCCURRENCE OF CYBER STALKING CASES AND THE MODUS OPERANDI ADOPTED IN THE INTERNET TO PERPETUATE CRIMES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING LEGISLATION AND POLICY MEASURES GEARED TOWARDS CURBING CYBER STALKING AND OTHER CYBER CRIMES AND PROTECT ONLINE USERS IN THE COUNTRY

Whereas, Article II Section 5 of the Philippine Constitution states, “the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all people of the blessings of democracy”;

Whereas, as defined by Alexis Moore in www.womenissues.about.com, cyberstalking is “a technologically-based “attack” on one person who has been targeted specifically for that attack for reasons of anger, revenge or control” and that cyberstalking can take many forms, including:

- a. harassment, embarrassment and humiliation of the victim
- b. emptying bank accounts or other economic control such as ruining the victim’s credit score
- c. harassing family, friends and employers to isolate the victim scare tactics to instill fear and more.

Whereas, the latest data of the www.internetworldstats.com indicated the following statistics of internet growth in the Philippines:

Internet Usage Statistics:

29,700,000 Internet users as of June/09, 29.7% of the population, according to Yahoo.

Latest Population Estimate:

99,900,177 population for 2010, according to the US Census Bureau.

Internet Growth in Philippines:

YEAR	Users	Population	% Pop.	Usage Source
2000	2,000,000	78,181,900	2.6 %	ITU
2005	7,820,000	84,174,092	9.3 %	C.I.Almanac
2008	14,000,000	96,061,683	14.6 %	Yahoo!
2009	24,000,000	97,976,603	24.5 %	Nielsen
2010	29,700,000	99,900,177	29.7 %	ITU

Whereas, cyber stalking does not take on a fixed variety or a predetermined description to illustrate how it is executed, but the act promotes harassment inducing negative feelings such as annoyance, inconvenience, humiliation, worry and fear to the victim;

Whereas, consistently and in various studies, it was identified that women are the most vulnerable in cyber stalking situations;

Whereas, however, recent occurrences attest that it is not only the women who become subjects of cyberstalkers or online stalkers as they may be called, since there is no preference as to who will be victimized by cyberstalkers who execute various forms and strategies similar to what is known about real-life, offline stalkers;

Whereas, the online stalker used different proxy sites so it will be hard if not impossible to trace his real identity;

Whereas, an episode in Imbestigador aired in January 2008 over GMA 7 featured two students, one 18 year old and another 20 year old graduating student who played on a trick to their former schoolmate by "hacking" the boy's Friendster account;


Whereas, the two lady "hackers" assumed the identity of their victim by sending false messages to the victim's friends which eventually led the hackers to demand Php 6,000.00 with which the victim was willing to settle so as to prevent further damage to his personality;

Whereas, an entrapment operation arranged by the police upon coordination of the victim with Imbestigador caused the arrest of the two hackers who were revealed just to be playing a trip for their own sake in exchange of the reputation of their victim;

Whereas, to complement the provisions of the Electronic Commerce Law of the Philippines, a definitive statute governing and penalizing cyber stalking is needed to protect the online and internet users: **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Science and Technology, and Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increasing occurrence of cyber stalking cases and the modus operandi adopted in the internet to perpetuate crimes with the end in view of formulating legislation and policy measures geared towards curbing cyber stalking and other cyber crimes and protect online users in the country.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR