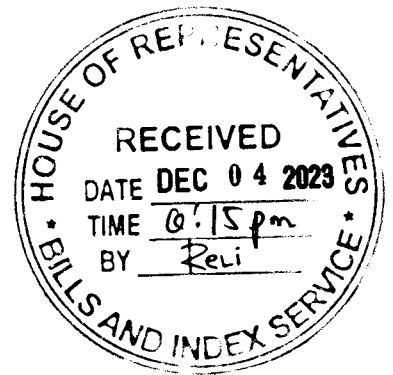




Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1499

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Introduced by Representative Margarita “Atty. Migs” B. Nograles

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO SUSPEND THE OPERATIONS OF SWARA SUG MEDIA CORPORATION OPERATING UNDER THE BUSINESS NAME SONSHINE MEDIA NETWORK INTERNATIONAL, FOR VIOLATING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ITS FRANCHISE UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11422**

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the Congress of the Philippines renewed the franchise of Swara Sug Media Corporation for another twenty-five years under Republic Act (RA) No. 11422, entitled “*An Act Renewing For Another Twenty-Five (25) Years The Franchise Granted To Swara Sug Media Corporation Under Republic Act No.8122, Entitled “An Act Granting The Swara Sug Media Corporation Of The Philippines A Franchise To Construct, Install, Operate And Maintain For Commercial Purposes Radio And Television Broadcasting Stations In The Philippines And For Other Purposes”*”;

**WHEREAS**, as one of its responsibilities to the public under Section 4 of RA 11422, SMNI is mandated not to use its stations or facilities for the deliberate dissemination of false information or willful misrepresentation to the detriment of the public interest, and that it shall “*provide at all times sound and balanced programming; promote public participation; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; promote audience sensibility and empowerment including closed captioning; and not use its stations or facilities for the broadcasting of obscene or indecent*”

*language, speech, act, or scene; or for the dissemination of deliberately false information or willful misrepresentation, to the detriment of the public interest”;*

**WHEREAS**, SMNI failed in its responsibility to the public by deliberately disseminating false information, thus, some Members of the House of Representatives filed House Resolutions and urged the National Telecommunications Commission to look into any violation of the terms and conditions of franchise committed by SMNI;

**WHEREAS**, on August 12, 2022, House Resolution (HR) No. 230, entitled *“Resolution Condemning the Fake News Peddling and Baseless Red-tagging of Individuals, Groups, and Organizations by the Sonshine Media Network International (SMNI), Thereby Endangering their Lives and Democratic Rights, and Urging the National Telecommunications Commission to Apprise the House of Representatives of the Status of the Complaints Against SMNI Pending Before it,”* was filed and referred to the Committee on Legislative Franchises on November 14, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, on November 6, 2023, HR 1428, entitled *“Resolution Condemning the Fake News Peddling, Baseless Red-tagging, and Grave Threats Against ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. France L. Castro by Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Sonshine Media Network International (SMNI), and Urging the National Telecommunications Commission to Investigate the Incident in Light of Media and Journalism Standards and Existing Laws,”* was filed and referred to the Committee on Legislative Franchises on November 14, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, on November 29, 2023, in his privilege speech, Representative David “Jay-jay” C. Suarez of the Second Legislative District of Quezon Province noted the fake news-peddling committed by SMNI through its program *“Laban Kasama ng Bayan,”* and challenged its hosts to name the source of the false information that Honorable Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez has spent P1.8 Billion for his foreign travel expenses in a year;

**WHEREAS**, on November 30, 2023, acting on the House Resolutions 230 and 1428 and the privilege speech referred to it, the Committee on Legislative Franchises held its initial committee hearing;

**WHEREAS**, during the committee hearing, Secretary General Reginald S. Velasco disclosed that the Office of the Speaker incurred the amount P4,347,712.00 in foreign related travel expenses for the period January to October 2023 as shown in the financial records of the House of Representatives,

disputing the claims that the Honorable Speaker Romualdez spent P1.8 Billion for his foreign trips;

**WHEREAS**, in the same committee hearing, Mr. Jeffrey “Ka Eric” Celiz, one of the hosts of ‘Laban Kasama ng Bayan,’ admitted that the source of information about the P1.8 Billion travel expenses he mentioned during the live airing of the program is wrong and was not validated;

**WHEREAS**, with the admission that the source of information was wrong and that the information was not vetted, in addition to the various complaints filed against the SMNI for fake news peddling and red-tagging, it is clear that SMNI violated its responsibility to the public not to use its stations or facilities for the deliberate dissemination of false information or willful misrepresentation to the detriment of the public interest;

**WHEREAS**, telecommunications including broadcast media are essential to the economic development, integrity and security of the country, and as such shall be developed and administered as to safeguard, enrich and strengthen the economic, cultural, social and political fabric of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, pending the recommendation of the Committee on Legislative Franchises on the alleged violations of SMNI, it is the duty of National Telecommunications Commission to immediately stop the deliberate dissemination of false information that may generate cynicism and mistrust on matters involving public interest: Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**, To urge the National Telecommunications Commission to suspend the operations of Swara Sug Media Corporation operating under the business name Sonshine Media Network International, for violating the terms and conditions of its franchise under Republic Act No. 11422.

Adopted,

MARGARITA “ATTORNEYS” B. NOGRALES