



PRESS RELEASE

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**Court of Appeals Orders Asset Freeze on Suspended Mayor Alice
Leal Guo Amidst POGO Scandal**

The AMLC secured a Freeze Order from the Court of Appeals. In a Resolution issued on July 10, 2024, the Court of Appeals issued a Freeze Order on the assets of suspended Mayor Alice Leal Guo and other individuals and entities after finding probable cause that they are related to unlawful activity and/or money laundering.

The Freeze Order stemmed from a Petition filed by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) on July 9, 2024, under Section 10 of Republic Act No. 9160, also known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended, and Rule 10 of its 2018 Implementing Rules and Regulations (2018 IRR). This action follows extensive investigations and joint operations led by the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) and the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG).

Key individuals identified in the AMLC's petition include Mayor Alice Leal Guo of Bamban Tarlac, Zhiyang Huang, and Baoying Lin. These individuals are suspected of orchestrating human trafficking and fraudulent activities through entities such as Zun Yuan Technology Inc., BAOFU Land Development Inc., and Hongsheng Gaming Technology Inc. The investigation uncovered significant financial transactions and assets amassed by these individuals as well as their involvement in money laundering, human trafficking, and other illicit operations.

The illicit activities linked to these individuals and entities include the operation of an unauthorized POGO at Zun Yuan Technology Inc. The investigation revealed that the company engaged in various illegal activities under the guise of POGO operations, including human trafficking, serious illegal detention, and online scam schemes. These operations were conducted within the premises of BAOFU Land Development Inc., which housed numerous workers, including trafficked individuals, who were forced to participate in fraudulent online activities.

The freeze order issued by the Court of Appeals covered several assets, including 90 bank accounts across 14 financial institutions, several real properties, and high-value personal properties, such as luxury vehicles and a helicopter. This

action aims to prevent the dissipation of assets while the investigation and legal proceedings continue.

"The Court of Appeals' freeze order is a critical move in our fight against money laundering and related criminal activities. Freezing these assets protects the integrity of our institutions and shields the public from the harms of unlawful activities. Our persistent crackdown on illicit proceeds of criminal activities highlight our bid to protect the integrity of our financial system and ensures that those who perpetrate these crimes will not enjoy the proceeds," stated Matthew David, AMLC Executive Director.

The AMLC remains committed to its mandate of combating money laundering and ensuring that the financial system is not used as a conduit for illicit activities. The issuance of the freeze order by the Court of Appeals stands as a proof to the council's resolve to upholding the rule of law and protecting the public from the harmful effects of financial crimes.

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