



SENATE

20 APR 27 10:29

P.S.R. No. 369

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

**URGING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO EXERT LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC
PRESSURE UPON THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO CEASE ALL ECOLOGICALLY
DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA AND TO PAY
REPARATIONS FOR DAMAGE ALREADY DONE**

WHEREAS, in PCA Case No. 2013-19, otherwise known as *Republic of the Philippines vs. People's Republic of China, vis-à-vis*, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) held that, because of aggressive and unlawful activities in the West Philippine Sea, China had breached its obligations with respect to the Philippines' sovereign rights over its continental shelf and exclusive economic zone;

WHEREAS, the PCA also found that, with respect to the protection and preservation of the marine environment, China was aware of, tolerated, protected, and failed to prevent its fishermen from engaging in the harvesting of endangered species on a significant scale, and from harvesting giant clams in a manner severely destructive of coral reef ecosystems;

WHEREAS, the current Chinese regime's unilateral policy of reclaiming and constructing artificial islands, installations, and structures – what has been described as the "Great Wall of Sand" – in the same area, was also found to have caused severe, irreparable harm to those same ecosystems;

WHEREAS, China's autocratic government has likewise taken advantage of the chaos caused by the coronavirus pandemic – which originated from one of its provinces – by unilaterally establishing new administrative bodies in the disputed territory and by

imposing Chinese names upon more than 80 islands, reefs, shoals, and ridges;

WHEREAS, unlawful Chinese activities in the West Philippine Sea are estimated to have caused at least 33 Billion Pesos of damage annually to marine ecosystems within the Philippines' continental shelf and exclusive economic zone since *Philippines vs. China* was filed in 2013;

WHEREAS, these estimates were computed on the basis of a 2012 study published in the international academic journal *Ecosystem Services* which pegged the annual baseline value per hectare of a coral reef at USD353,429, as well as satellite images showing that Chinese activities had caused ecological damage to a total of 1850 hectares of reef ecosystems in Panatag and the Spratly Islands; and

WHEREAS, in the form of reparations, these are funds that can be used to not only restore and renew vulnerable marine ecosystems, but to bolster Philippine efforts to address the pandemic as well.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO EXERT LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE UPON THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO CEASE ALL ECOLOGICALLY DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA AND TO PAY REPARATIONS FOR DAMAGE ALREADY DONE.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator