

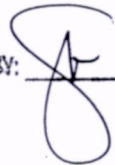
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'19 NOV -5 P1 36

SENATE  
S. No. 1143

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NAVY FORWARD OPERATING**  
**BASES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT THEREOF, AND**  
**FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

The Philippines, as an archipelagic country, is surrounded by a coastline stretching up to 36, 289 kilometers and by both external and internal waters, thus forming part of the national territory.

As such, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is mandated by the State to defend the national territory from external aggression, secure the country's maritime areas from all forms of intrusions and encroachment, piracy and drug trafficking and shall likewise assist other government agencies in protecting our marine resources and environment, among others.

This is pursuant to the policy of the State, as enshrined in Sec. 3, Art. II of the 1987 Constitution, which states:

"Section 3. Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. **The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.**"

In line with the Philippine Navy Strategic Basing Plan 2040, the Philippine Navy has identified several strategic sites around the country which are existing for further development or which are proposed to be developed. However, the

establishment of bases in such areas remains a challenge as there are difficulties in acquiring these properties or in developing these due to lack of resources, among others.

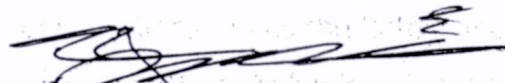
However, in light of the changing times and growing modern-day complexities in the region, there remains the need to continue strengthening and upgrading the equipment, facilities and manpower of the Philippine Navy in order to enable it to perform its duties and functions, for national security reasons.

It is hereby proposed that the Philippine Navy be empowered to establish forward operating bases in the sites identified by the Philippine Navy in its Strategic Basing Plan 2040 for its bases and installations.

A forward operating base, which is smaller than a main naval base and naval operating base, will not require the same budgetary allocation as the latter, and shall serve as an outpost in strategic locations near the West Philippine Sea and the Philippine Rise. These forward operating bases are to be established with the end in view of serving as a naval and military facility that can immediately carry out the mandate of the Philippine Navy in the far-flung areas of the country and as a potential site for future upgrade and expansion.

The proposed measure will likewise be in line with Republic Act No. 7898, otherwise known as the AFP Modernization Act, which provides that it is the policy of the State to modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to a level where it can effectively and fully perform its constitutional mandate to uphold the sovereignty and preserve the patrimony of the Republic of the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**



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**FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Navy  
2 Archipelagic Defense Act."

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State declares that the Armed Forces of the  
4 Philippines (AFP) is the protector of the people and the State. The goal of the  
5 AFP is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national  
6 territory.

7 The State likewise recognizes the mission of the Philippine Navy, as a  
8 branch of the AFP, to organize, train, equip, maintain, develop and deploy  
9 forces for the prompt and sustained naval and maritime operations in support  
10 of the Unified Commands in the accomplishment of the AFP mission.

11 It is the policy of the State to modernize the AFP to a level where it  
12 can effectively and fully perform its constitutional mandate to uphold the  
13 sovereignty and preserve the patrimony of the Republic of the Philippines.

14 In order to effectively carry out the mandate of the Philippine Navy,  
15 the establishment of forward operating bases in the sites identified by the

1 Philippine Navy in its Strategic Basing Plan 2040 is hereby pursued by the  
2 State.

3 *Sec. 3. Scope and Limitations.* – The Act shall be limited in scope, application,  
4 and effectivity to the sites identified by the Philippine Navy in its Strategic  
5 Basing Plan 2040 as priority sites, as enumerated in Section 5 of this Act, for  
6 the establishment of its bases and installations.

7 *Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of the Act, the following terms  
8 shall mean:

9 *a. Forward operating bases (FOB)* –It shall refer to a small-scale naval and  
10 military facility or outpost where the Philippine Navy can carry out its basic  
11 functions and duties and which can serve as a potential site for future  
12 upgrade and expansion, for national security purposes.

13 *b. Strategic Basing Plan 2040* – It shall refer to the existing plan of the  
14 Philippine Navy to acquire and develop properties for the establishment of  
15 bases and installations in strategic sites throughout the country.

16 *Sec. 5. Priority Sites.* – The strategic locations identified by the Philippine  
17 Navy Directorate for Real Estate Management as priority sites in its Strategic  
18 Basing Plan 2040 by reason of its strategic location shall serve as the sites of  
19 the FOBs.

20 These sites include and shall be limited to the following:

- 21 a) Busuanga, Palawan;
- 22 b) Subic Bay, Zambales;
- 23 c) Mavulis Island, Batanes;
- 24 d) Lubang Island, Mindoro;
- 25 e) Surigao, Surigao del Norte;
- 26 f) Allen, Northern Samar;
- 27 g) Polilio Island, Quezon;
- 28 h) Bicobian, Divilacan, Isabela;
- 29 i) Casiguran, Aurora;
- 30 j) Sarangani, Davao Occidental;
- 31 k) Balabac, Palawan; and
- 32 l) Mapun, Tawi-Tawi

1        *Sec. 6 Masterplan for the Establishment of Forward Operating Bases.* – To be  
2        able to attain the policy and objectives set forth in this Act, there shall be  
3        established a Masterplan Governing the Establishment of Forward Operating  
4        Bases, hereinafter referred to as the Masterplan, which shall be confidential,  
5        and shall contain the priority sites, the schedule, the proposed facilities  
6        therein, the estimated cost of the same, among others.

7                In particular, the Masterplan shall contain the following:

- 8                a) Set a timeline for the acquisition of the properties in the priority  
9                sites, as defined in Section 5, the planning for the development of  
10              the same, and the development of the forward operating bases  
11              itself, provided that the timelines to be set shall not exceed three  
12              years; and
- 13              b) Features of the proposed facilities to be acquired, developed,  
14              constructed or installed in the forward operating bases in the  
15              priority areas.

16        *Sec. 7. Preparation of the Masterplan.* – Within 60 days from the  
17        implementation of this Act, upon the recommendation of the Secretaries of  
18        National Defense and Budget and Management, the Masterplan shall be  
19        submitted by the Philippine Navy for the approval of the President of the  
20        Philippines.

21        *Sec. 8. Funding.* – An initial appropriation of One Billion Pesos  
22        (P1,000,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the initial budgetary requirements of  
23        this Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation  
24        of the Masterplan as provided for in this Act shall be included in the annual  
25        General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the Philippine Navy.

26        *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
27        unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the  
28        other provisions not affected thereby.

29        *Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of  
30        instructions, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts  
31        thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this act are  
32        hereby revoked, repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1       Sec. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
2 following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least  
3 one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,