NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



23 FEB 28 P6:07

SENATE S NO.1941

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

AN ACT

GRANTING THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, THE POWER TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IN THE CREATION OF NEW MILITARY BASES AND FACILITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9400, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to recognize the role of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as the protector of the people and the State.¹

With its indispensable role, the State must support the Armed Forces to achieve its goal of securing the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.² By providing the necessary equipment, facilities, and manpower, the State assists the Armed Forces to fulfill its sworn duty.

In light of evolving geo-political conditions, there is a need for new placements of military installations in key locations around the country for the strategic protection and advancement of national security, particularly in areas covering the West Philippine Sea, the Sulu Sea, and the Philippine Rise. As our country experiences threats from both within and

¹ Article II Section 3, 1987 Constitution of the Philippines

² Id.

without our territory, the strategic positioning of new military bases is all the more urgent and necessary.

Therefore, this bill seeks to grant power to the Bases Conversion Development Authority to assist and facilitate the creation of military bases in order to improve and advance our state of national readiness.

This representation originally filed this bill in the 18th Congress. In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.

FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

Senator

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

Section. 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7227, as amended by Republic Act No. 9400, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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"Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the Government to accelerate the sound and balanced conversion into alternative productive uses of the Clark and Subic military reservations and their extension (John Hay Station, Wallace Air Station, O'Donnell Transmitter Station, San Miguel Naval Communications Station and Capas Relay Station), to raise funds by the sale of portions of Metro Manila military camps, and to apply said funds as provided herein for the development and conversion to productive civilian use of the lands covered under the 1947 Military Bases Agreement between the Philippines and the United States of America, as amended.

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It is likewise the declared policy of the [Government] **STATE** to enhance the benefits to be derived from said properties in order to promote the economic and social development OF THE PEOPLE, AS WELL AS THE OVERALL NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNTRY of Central Luzon in particular and the country in general. Sec. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7227, as amended by Republic Act No. 9400, is hereby further amended to read as follows: "Sec. 4. Purposes of the Conversion Authority - The conversion authority shall have the following purposes: XXX (H) TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND) IN THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AND COASTAL AREAS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, IN AREAS NEAR THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, THE SULU SEA, AND THE PHILIPPINE RISE. Sec. 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (60) days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), in consultation with the DND, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), shall promulgate and publish the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. Sec. 3. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect. Sec. 4. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly. Sec. 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

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