

23 JUL 26 P3 :29

**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 702**

RECEIVED BY:



---

Introduced by **Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA**

---

**RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
PHILIPPINE MARITIME AND ADMIRALTY ZONES**

1           **WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 7 of the Constitution declares: "The State shall  
2 pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states, the paramount  
3 consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and  
4 the right to self-determination";

5           **WHEREAS**, Article XII, Section 2 of the Constitution further states in part that  
6 the State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial  
7 sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to  
8 Filipino citizens;

9           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the  
10 Sea (UNCLOS), to which the Philippines is a signatory and a party, our country and  
11 other coastal States have been recognized to have the right to establish maritime zones  
12 and jurisdictions over which sovereignty and appurtenant sovereign rights can be  
13 exercised;

14           **WHEREAS**, as a member state of the United Nations, the Philippines is bound to  
15 perform its obligation in good faith and enact legislations in adherence with the  
16 UNCLOS and other treaties;

17           **WHEREAS**, as an archipelagic state, defining the country's maritime boundaries  
18 through a legal framework consistent with the Constitution and international law is  
19 fundamental in asserting sovereignty and jurisdiction to protect our national territory  
20 and marine resources;

21           **WHEREAS**, despite the enactment of R.A. 9522, or the "Philippine Archipelagic

1 Baselines Law," there are legal gaps which requires further legislation of comprehensive  
2 measures that shall clearly establish and govern the Philippine maritime zone regimes  
3 to the full geographical extent allowed under the UNCLOS, and preclude any  
4 unwarranted dispute with other nations involving such areas;

5 **WHEREAS**, in the past Congresses, the Legislative Executive Development  
6 Advisory Council (LEDAC) has identified Maritime Zones Bills and the Archipelagic Sea  
7 Lanes Bills as part of its Common Legislative Agenda;

8 **WHEREAS**, now, at a critical time when the Philippines continues to be  
9 vulnerable to unlawful activities which threaten its territory, sovereignty, including the  
10 livelihood of our people and rights over natural resources, it is compelling for the  
11 Senate to prioritize the formulation of policies that will aid in strengthening our  
12 country's defense posture and protecting the general welfare of the Filipinos;

13 **WHEREAS**, Rule X, Section 14 of the Rules of the Senate provides that  
14 "Whenever necessary, special committees shall be organized, the membership and  
15 jurisdiction of which shall be determined by the Senate President";

16 **WHEREAS**, in fulfilling the constitutional mandate of protecting the country's  
17 territorial integrity and upholding its sovereignty, the Senate shall create a special  
18 committee to be known as the "Special Committee on Philippine Maritime and Admiralty  
19 Zones" which shall have jurisdiction to study, hear, and report out all matters, including  
20 all measures relating to archipelagic baselines, maritime zones, archipelagic sea lanes,  
21 and other matters incidental thereto: Now, therefore, be it

22 **RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, To create, as it hereby  
23 creates, a Special Committee to be known as the "Special Committee on Philippine  
24 Maritime and Admiralty Zones," which shall have jurisdiction to study, hear, and report  
25 all matters, including all measures relating to baselines, maritime zones, archipelagic  
26 sea lanes, and other matters incidental thereto.

27 *Adopted,*

  
**JOEL VILLANUEVA**