



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

23 NOV 20 P 4 :23

**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. No. 864**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE TO STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN RELATING TO THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS PROVIDED BY EXISTING LAWS AND OTHER ISSUANCES**

1           WHEREAS, Section 7, Article III of the 1987 Constitution provides that "[t]he  
2 right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized."  
3 It furthers that access to official records, and to documents, and papers pertaining to  
4 official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used  
5 as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such  
6 limitations as may be provided by law;

7           WHEREAS, the highest law of the land likewise stipulates the vital role of  
8 communication and information in nation-building (Section 24, Article II);

9           WHEREAS, the Philippine Communications Office (PCO) is the lead  
10 communications arm of the government and the primary source of the Administration's  
11 messages for an informed and empowered citizenry;

12           WHEREAS, part of PCO's mission is to "effectively communicate and  
13 disseminate information regarding the policies, priority programs and projects of the  
14 Administration through appropriate media";

15           WHEREAS, as the nation's security landscape continues to evolve, it is  
16 incumbent upon the PCO to provide clear, up-to-date, and accurate information on  
17 matters of public concern relating to the security challenges confronting our country;

1           WHEREAS, the territorial claim in the West Philippine Sea issue remains a  
2 primary national interest of the Philippines. This has been in the spotlight in the past  
3 decade following the government’s filing of an arbitration case against China under  
4 the United National Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in January 2013,  
5 which was ruled in favor of the Philippines in 2016;

6           WHEREAS, during his 2022 and 2023 State of the Nation Address (SONA),  
7 President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. assured the Filipino people that the Philippine  
8 government will continue to uphold its sovereign rights and preserve territorial  
9 integrity in defense of rules-based international order;

10           WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the Ayungin Shoal incident in August 2023,  
11 where Chinese vessels allegedly fired water cannon at the Philippine Coast Guard  
12 during a resupply mission, the Philippine Ambassador to the United States, Jose  
13 Manuel Romualdez, stated that “the continuing tension between China and the  
14 Philippines over the West Philippine Sea is far more serious than how people perceive  
15 it is”;

16           WHEREAS, coinciding with the seriousness of this issue is the risk of spreading  
17 propaganda, misinformation, and fake news with the advent of social media, which  
18 can greatly impact our pursuit of good governance and ultimately undermine  
19 democracy;

20           WHEREAS, it behooves the national government, through its communications  
21 arm, the PCO, to communicate to the public in an understandable way the relevant  
22 legal documents, international treaties, and bilateral and multilateral agreements, such  
23 as but not limited to the following: the UNCLOS, the 2016 Arbitral Ruling, US–  
24 Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, Reciprocal Access Agreement, which have become  
25 the basis of the Philippine government’s policies and actions on the issues surrounding  
26 the territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea;

27           WHEREAS, it is understood that matters that may have repercussions or may  
28 compromise the nation’s defense and security are naturally excluded from any public  
29 information and awareness campaign: Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED BY THE  
30 SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To urge the Presidential Communications Office to  
31 strengthen the public information and awareness campaign on matters of public

- 1 concern relating to the country's national defense and security in the West Philippine
- 2 Sea, subject to limitations provided by existing laws and other issuances.

Adopted,



**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**

Senator