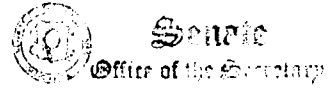


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



24 JAN 22 P 6 :28

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 910

RECORDED

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA WHICH SOW DISUNITY AND CONFUSION AMONG FILIPINOS, PROPAGATE FALSE AND UNFOUNDED NARRATIVES ABOUT THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AND FOREIGN ENCROACHMENT WITHIN OUR WATERS, AND UNDERMINE THE COUNTRY'S HISTORIC VICTORY IN THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION

1 WHEREAS, Article XII Section 2 of the Constitution provides that the State
2 shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and
3 exclusive economic zone and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino
4 citizens;

5 WHEREAS, Article II Section 24 states that the State recognizes the vital role
6 of communication and information in nation-building;

7 WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate adopted on 01 August 2023 Resolution No.
8 79 entitled "Resolution strongly condemning the continued harassment of Filipino
9 fishermen and the persistent incursions in the West Philippine Sea by the Chinese
10 Coast Guard and militia vessels, and urging the Philippine Government to take
11 appropriate action in asserting and securing the Philippines' sovereign rights over its
12 exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, and to call on China to stop its illegal
13 activities in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
14 and the 2016 Ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration";

1 WHEREAS, a September 2022 Pulse Asia survey revealed that 86% of
2 Filipinos see the proliferation of fake news as a problem in the country. Moreover,
3 the internet or social media (68%) and television (67%) were identified as leading
4 sources of fake news about government and politics;

5 WHEREAS, in a televised public briefing, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro,
6 Jr. last October 2023 said that, "Disinformation and information operators are in the
7 playbook of China. We are countering the narratives by information operations such
8 as this — me explaining to our countrymen why they should not believe in China's
9 narratives," and "They are planting disinformation in order to weaken the political
10 will and unity of this country *kaya kailangan po nagkakaisa po tayo dito. Huwag po*
11 *tayong maniniwala sa disinformation ng China;*"

12 WHEREAS, during a Senate public hearing last 12 September 2012, the
13 Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) was asked about a state-sponsored disinformation
14 campaign and shared that some journalists received "emails trying to divert the
15 attention and focus of the Filipino people, and instead of concentrating on the
16 aggressive actions of China, they are diverting it to Vietnam¹;"

17 WHEREAS, following an incident of harassment of Philippine vessels last 10
18 December 2023 during a regular resupply mission to BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin
19 Shoal, National Security Council (NSC) Assistant Director Jonathan Malaya expressed
20 grave concern over the "deliberate disinformation campaign being waged by China
21 using official channels." He said, "China's claim that the small and wooden UM-1
22 (Unaizah Mae 1) intentionally rammed a CCG (China Coast Guard) vessel is the
23 height of disinformation and fake news;"

24 WHEREAS, the US Department of State released a report entitled "How
25 People's Republic of China Seeks to Reshape the Global Information Environment"
26 which stated that "PRC spends billions of dollars annually on foreign information
27 manipulation efforts," "Beijing uses false or biased information to promote positive
28 views of the PRC and the Chinese Communist Party," and "PRC suppresses critical

¹ Transcript of Stenographic Notes (TSN). 12 September 2023 hearing conducted by the Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation joint with the Committees on Foreign Relations, Public Works, and Finance.

1 information that contradicts its desired narratives on issues such as...the South China
2 Sea...²"

3 WHEREAS, Rappler reported that following the 05 August 2023 incident
4 wherein the Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) fired water cannons at two Philippine ships,
5 there were online posts which "criticized the way the PCG reacted to the situation –
6 with some even lambasting coast guard officials and questioning their authority" and
7 "downplayed China's actions." The report said such "attempts to dismiss harassment
8 by China at Ayungin [Shoal] is just one example of how pro-China sentiment is being
9 seeded online." Rappler investigation further reported that there is an organized pro-
10 China community on Facebook that for years "has been spreading propaganda and
11 disinformation³;"

12 WHEREAS, in another interview, Malaya said that China was engaged in
13 psychological and cognitive warfare to prevent Filipinos from uniting against Chinese
14 intrusion in the West Philippine Sea. He continued, "It's to their advantage that we're
15 divided as a nation. They are undermining our country's position through their
16 political operators here at a time when we need to be united and show the world
17 that we are supporting the Philippines' stand⁴;"

18 WHEREAS, while the defense establishment is already monitoring and
19 countering the false narratives perpetrated about the West Philippine Sea, the anti-
20 fake news campaign requires a whole-a-government and whole-of-nation approach
21 involving citizen empowerment and education in order to become truly effective;

22 WHEREAS, it is important to determine and assess the reach and machineries
23 behind the disinformation campaign towards formulation of policies and strategies to
24 address the matter, dismantle the network of fake news peddlers, and overcome its
25 adverse impact;

26 WHEREAS, the unity of the Filipino people with respect to the issue of the
27 West Philippine Sea must be upheld and fostered amidst ongoing foreign state-
28 sponsored efforts fomenting discord and division amongst the Philippine population;

² https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/HOW-THE-PEOPLES-REPUBLIC-OF-CHINA-SEEKS-TO-RESHAPE-THE-GLOBAL-INFORMATION-ENVIRONMENT_508.pdf

³ "How pro-China propaganda is seeded online in the Philippines." November 1, 2023.

<https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/investigative/ways-how-china-propaganda-seeded-online-philippines/>

⁴ "China using 'operators' to divide PH on WPS — NSC" 18 August 2023.

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/218006/china-using-operators-to-divide-ph-on-wps-nsc>

1 WHEREAS, the ease, speed and breadth with which false information about
2 the West Philippine Sea can be disseminated across the internet, as well as the
3 ubiquity and accessibility of social media platforms, necessitate urgent and
4 comprehensive response from the government, as such can incite unpatriotic
5 sentiments and disloyalty to the country among Filipinos;

6 WHEREAS, securing the integrity of the national territory and protecting our
7 maritime entitlements and national sovereignty are of paramount interest to the
8 country;

9 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate,
10 to urge the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media and other
11 appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
12 disinformation campaign about the West Philippine Sea which sow disunity and
13 confusion among Filipinos, propagate false and unfounded narratives about the
14 illegal activities and foreign encroachment within our waters, and undermine the
15 country's victory in the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Adopted,


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA