

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 SEP 17 2010

SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 137

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by Senator Antonio F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION
CREATING THE COMMITTEE ON MARITIME AFFAIRS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13, RULE X OF THE RULES OF THE SENATE, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a maritime nation having about 75 percent of the area within its territorial boundaries composed of waters and seas, and only about 25 percent thereof, land;

WHEREAS, due to our geographical configuration, a substantial part of our trade and commerce is conducted in and by sea, even in this day of modern aviation, with the shipping industry accounting for over 90 percent share in the transport of interisland cargo. Ship and passenger traffic reached 306,107 and 42,560,000, respectively, in 2006. Out of this figure, domestic ship traffic reached 296,347.¹ Moreover, the prices of our goods and commodities are directly, even gravely, affected by the state of the country's shipping industry;

WHEREAS, the revenues derived from annual withholding taxes alone on bareboat charter hire constitutes a substantial contribution to the Philippine economy, reaching a total of P104.35M in 2005;²

WHEREAS, there is a need to implement the existing national marine policies of the State in order to protect and preserve our vast and rich maritime zone which can provide the Filipino people with food, petroleum, hydrocarbon, minerals, energy, medicine, animal feeds and other marine resources;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is the leading worldwide supplier of seafarers, having registered about 632,260 seafarers or about 28.5 percent of the total population of those onboard international vessels.³ Moreover, of the total deployed OFWs of 1,062,567 in 2006 alone, 26 percent or 274,497 were seafarers.⁴ The profession has been consistently bringing in the much needed foreign exchange into the country and stabilizing our dollar reserves the past decades;

WHEREAS, there is heavy reliance by Filipinos on the fishing industry as a primary source of livelihood, considering that 64 out of 79 cities in the country are coastal cities, while 855 out of 1,500 are coastal municipalities.⁵ There is a need therefore to protect and preserve the marine environment in order to ultimately protect the fishing industry;

¹ Source: Philippine Ports Authority
² Source: Maritime Industry Authority
³ Source: Maritime Industry Authority
⁴ Source: Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
⁵ Source: Philippine Coast Guard

WHEREAS, jurisdiction over these issues have always been under different committees, such as the Committee on Foreign Relations, Committee on National Defense and Security, and Committee on Public Services, whose respective jurisdictions already cover a significant number of matters and compelling issues that need to be addressed by them;

WHEREAS, the issues faced by our maritime affairs sector are so compelling that there is a need to create a separate and specialized committee in the Senate that shall address them expeditiously and effectively within the framework of national development and for the benefit of the general welfare;

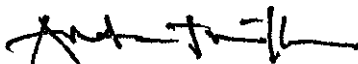
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to create a *Committee on Maritime Affairs*, amending for the purpose Section 13 of Rule X of the Rules of the Senate, as amended, to read as follows:

“Section 13. After the organization of the Senate in the manner provided in Rule IX, the following permanent committees shall be formed, with the duties, powers and general jurisdiction specified hereunder:

XX XX XX

“37) COMMITTEE ON MARITIME AFFAIRS. – Nine (9) members. All matters relating to maritime trade, commerce and transportation; maritime safety, security and jurisdiction; marine resources and environment protection; maritime personnel and stakeholders; maritime industries and administration; and, the implementation of maritime-related international agreements.”

Adopted,



ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV