

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Manila City

Nineteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 76

RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
PHILIPPINE MARITIME AND ADMIRALTY ZONES

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

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

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

WHEREAS, as a Member State of the United Nations, the Philippines is bound to perform its obligation in good faith and enact legislations in adherence with the UNCLOS and other treaties;

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

WHEREAS, despite the enactment of Republic Act No. 9522, or the "Philippine Archipelagic Baselines Law", there are legal gaps which require further legislation of comprehensive measures that shall clearly establish and govern the Philippine maritime zone regimes to the full geographical extent allowed under the UNCLOS, and preclude any unwarranted dispute with other nations involving such areas;

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

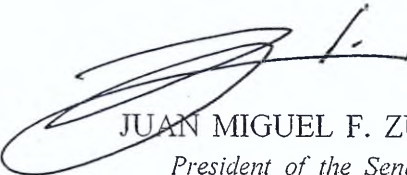
WHEREAS, now, at a critical time when the Philippines continues to be vulnerable to unlawful activities which threaten its territory and sovereignty, including the livelihood of our people and rights over natural resources, it is compelling for the Senate to prioritize the formulation of policies that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

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

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

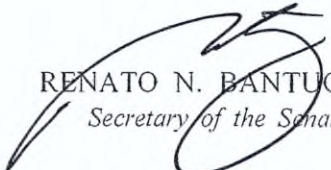
Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To create, as it hereby creates, a Special Committee to be known as the "Special Committee on Philippine Maritime and Admiralty Zones", which shall have jurisdiction to study, hear, and report out all matters, including all measures, relating to archipelagic baselines, maritime zones, archipelagic sea lanes, and other matters incidental thereto.

Adopted,



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on July 26, 2023.



RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.
Secretary of the Senate