

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'11 MAR 10 AIO :26

SENATE

S. No. 2737

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article I of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that:

"The national territory comprises the Philippine archipelago, with all the islands and waters embraced therein, and all other territories over which the Philippines has sovereignty or jurisdiction, consisting of its terrestrial, fluvial and aerial domains, including its territorial sea, the seabed, the subsoil, the insular shelves, and other submarine areas. The waters around, between, and connecting the islands of the archipelago, regardless of their breadth and dimensions, form part of the internal waters of the Philippines."

Pursuant to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), of which the Philippines is a signatory and a party, our country and other coastal States has been recognized to have the right to establish various maritime zones and jurisdictions over which sovereignty and appurtenant sovereign rights can be exercised. Given the premise, this bill seeks to have a general declaration and definition of the maritime zones under the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

This proposed legislation has the aim of preserving and protecting the country's maritime rights, as it mentions in general terms the rights that the Philippines may exercise over its maritime zones.

Establishing the extent of the limits of the maritime zone of the Philippine archipelago practically averts any unnecessary dispute with vessels of foreign states entering the Philippine maritime territory without our permission.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

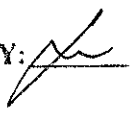
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator



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AN ACT
TO DEFINE THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title*** - This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Maritime Zones*
2 *Act*".

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Maritime Zones***. - The maritime zones of the Philippines are comprised of the
5 Internal, Waters, Archipelagic Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic
6 Zone (EEZ) and Continental Shelf. All territories of the Philippines generate their respective
7 maritime zones in accordance with international law.

8
9 **SEC. 3. *Internal Waters***. - The Internal Waters of the Philippines refer to the:

- 10 (a) waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines not forming part of
11 Archipelagic Waters under Section 4 hereof and delimited in accordance with Article
12 50 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and/or
13 (b) waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea of territories outside
14 of the archipelagic baselines.

15 The Philippines exercises sovereignty over its Internal Waters and the airspace over it as
16 well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the
17 Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other existing laws treaties.

1 **SEC. 4. *Archipelagic Waters.*** – The Archipelagic Waters of the Philippines refer to the
2 waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines except as provided for under Section 3
3 hereof.

4 Within the archipelagic waters, closing lines for the delimitation of internal water shall be
5 drawn pursuant to Article 50 of UNCLOS and other existing laws treaties.

6
7 **SEC. 5. *Territorial Sea.*** – The Territorial Sea of the Philippines shall be the belt of sea
8 measured twelve (12) nautical miles from the baselines or from the low-water line, as the case
9 may be.

10 The Philippines exercises sovereignty over its territorial sea and the airspace over it, as
11 well as its seabed and subsoil, in accordance with UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

12
13 **SEC. 6. *Contiguous Zone.*** – The Contiguous Zone of the Philippines refers to the waters
14 beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea and up to the extent of twenty-four (24) nautical miles
15 from the baselines or from the low-water line, as the case may be.

16 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this zone in accordance with UNCLOS
17 and other existing laws and treaties.

18
19 **SEC. 7. *Exclusive Economic Zone.*** – The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the
20 Philippines refers to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the extent of
21 two-hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines or from the low-water line, as the case may
22 be.

23 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this area including the right to explore
24 and exploit living and non-living, organic or non-organic resources in accordance with UNCLOS
25 and other existing laws and treaties.

26
27 **SEC. 8. *Continental Shelf.*** – The Continental Shelf of the Philippines comprises the
28 seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the
29 natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a

1 distance of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the
2 territorial sea is measured, where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to
3 that distance.

4 Continental shelves extending beyond two-hundred (200) nautical miles from the
5 baselines shall be delineated in accordance with Article 76 of UNCLOS.

6 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this area including the right to explore
7 and exploit living and non-living, organic or non-organic resources in accordance with UNCLOS
8 and other existing laws and treaties.

9

10 **SEC. 9. *Adherence to Existing Laws.*** – Other rights of the Philippines not referred to in
11 this Act shall be exercised in accordance with international law and the laws and regulations of
12 the Philippines.

13

14 **SEC. 10. *Overlapping Maritime Zones.*** – If the maritime zones of the Philippines
15 overlap with the maritime zones claimed by other countries, the Philippines may delimit these
16 zones and endeavor to resolve the overlaps in accordance with means recognized under
17 international law.

18

19 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof
20 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
21 accordingly.

22

23 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
24 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

25

26 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
27 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,