



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay ¹⁹ AUG -7 P5:24

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POSSIBLE NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF TRANSFORMING THREE STRATEGIC ISLANDS IN NORTHERN PHILIPPINES INTO ECONOMIC AND TOURISM ZONES

RECEIVED

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides
2 the State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other
3 states the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity,
4 national interest, and the right to self-determination;

5 WHEREAS, an article from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, dated August 5, 2019,
6 reported on Chinese investors targeting three strategic islands in northern
7 Philippines for transformation into economic and tourism zones;

8 WHEREAS, the islands targeted for investments are the Fuga Island in
9 Cagayan Province and the Grande and Chiquita Islands in Subic Bay, Zambales
10 Province;

11 WHEREAS, the 10,000-hectare Fuga Island is part of the country's second
12 northernmost island group and provides access to the Pacific Ocean and the South
13 China Sea;

14 WHEREAS, according to the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), the
15 plan for Fuga Island was the establishment of a proposed \$2-billion "Smart City"
16 which have an agricultural breeding center and soil improvement project, medical

17 school and a high-tech industrial park patterned after megainfrastructure projects in
18 Fujian Province in China to be built by Xiamen-based Fong Zhi Enterprise Corp.;

19 WHEREAS, the Grande and Chiquita Islands in Subic Bay have both served as
20 key defenses of Spain and the United States during their colonization of the
21 Philippines and serves as important naval fortifications;

22 WHEREAS, according to the article from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chinese
23 investments in the aforementioned islands may possibly associate the Philippines to
24 be an accessory to a possible China-Taiwan conflict by allowing China to have
25 unrestricted access to both the Pacific Ocean and South China Sea;

26 WHEREAS, a Senate inquiry on the matter is necessary in order to conduct a
27 comprehensive review of foreign investments in the country to determine economic
28 costs and benefits as well as direct and indirect noneconomic impacts such as
29 possible implications to national defense and security;

30 BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate
31 Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the possible national
32 security implications of transforming three strategic islands in northern Philippines
33 into economic and tourism zones.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator