EXEMPLARYARY NOTE

Article 1 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 aims to preserve and protect 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.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 808

Introduced by MAGDALO Party-List Representative
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

AN ACT
DEFINING THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Maritime Zones Act”.

SEC. 2. Maritime Zones. — The maritime zones of the Philippines shall be comprised of its internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf. All territories of the Philippines shall generate their respective maritime zones in accordance with international law.

SEC. 3. Archipelagic Baselines. — Archipelagic baselines, as used in this Act, shall refer to the baselines as defined under Republic Act No. 9522, entitled “An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 5046, as Amended by Republic Act No. 5446, to Define the Archipelagic Baselines of the Philippines, and for Other Purposes”.

SEC. 4. Internal Waters. — The internal waters of the Philippines shall refer to the waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines not forming part of the archipelagic waters under Section 5 hereof and delimited in accordance with Article 50 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS); and/or waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea of territories outside of the archipelagic baselines.

The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty over its internal waters and the airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

SEC. 5. Archipelagic Waters. — The archipelagic waters of the Philippines shall refer to the waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines except as provided for under Section 4 hereof.

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

The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty and jurisdiction over its archipelagic waters and the airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.
SEC. 6. Territorial Sea. – The territorial sea of the Philippines shall refer to the belt of sea measured twelve (12) nautical miles from the baselines or from the low-water line, as the case may be.

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

SEC. 7. Contiguous Zone. – The contiguous zone of the Philippines shall refer to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the extent of twenty-four (24) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

The Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over this zone in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

SEC. 8. Exclusive Economic Zone. – The exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Philippines shall refer to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the extent of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

The Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over this area including the right to explore and exploit living and nonliving, organic or nonorganic resources in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

SEC. 9. Continental Shelf. – The continental shelf of the Philippines shall be compromised of the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

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

The Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over this area including the right to explore and exploit living and nonliving, organic or nonorganic resources in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

SEC. 10. Adherence to Existing Laws. – Other rights of the Philippines not stipulated in this Act shall be exercised in accordance with international law and the law and regulations of the Philippines.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. – If any portions or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.
1. SEC. 13. Effectivity.— This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.