

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9420



Introduced by Rep. JOHNNY PIMENTEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates that Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. It is tasked with the lofty duty to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.

Part and parcel of these territories to which the Philippines exercise sovereignty are the territorial seas (12 nautical miles from the shores baseline) and the Exclusive Economic Zones (200 nautical miles from the shores baselines).

Philippines, being the second largest archipelago in the world, is virtually surrounded by bodies of water in all directions. Fundamental is the task of strengthening the capacity, capability and operational readiness of the Philippine navy in addressing threats emanating from these waters.

Recently, our Navy has released its Strategic Basing Plan of 2040 identifying small - scale naval and military facilities where the it can carry out its constitutionally-mandated duty and also can serve as a potential sites for future upgrade and expansion for national security purposes. Twelve key sites were identified in strategic locations around the Philippines.

However, budgetary constraints have caused the slow implementation of this crucial undertaking by our navy. Be it as it may, the present international situation requires a decisive implementation considering the situation and various incidents occurring in the waters of the West Philippine Sea.

In keeping with our policy in modernizing the Armed Forces and ensuring that they are provided their needs to fulfill their fundamental duties, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

HON. JOHNNY PIMENTEL

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1 **“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NAVY FORWARD**
2 **OPERATING BASES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT**
3 **THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

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

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9 SECTION 1. *DECLARATION OF POLICY.* – The Armed Forces of the
10 Philippines (AFP) is the protector of the people and the State. The goal of the AFP is
11 to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.

12 The State likewise recognizes the mission of the Philippine Navy, as a branch
13 of the AFP, to organize, train, equip, maintain, develop and deploy forces for the
14 prompt and sustained naval and maritime operations in support of the United
15 Commands in the accomplishment of the AFP mission.

16 It is the policy of the State to modernize the AFP to a level where it can
17 effectively and fully perform its constitutional mandate to uphold the sovereignty and
18 preserve the patrimony of the Republic of the Philippines.

19 In order to effectively carry out its mandate, the establishment of Forward
20 Operating Bases (FOBs) in the sites identified by the Philippine Navy is hereby
21 pursued by the State.

22 SEC. 2. *DEFINITION OF TERMS.* – For the purpose of this Act, the following
23 terms shall mean:

24 A. *Forward Operating Bases (FOBs)* – It shall refer to a small – scale
25 naval and military facility or outpost where the Philippine Navy can
26 carry out its basic functions and duties and which can serve as a
27 potential site for future upgrade and expansion, for national security
28 purposes.

29 B. *Strategic Basing Plan 2040* – It shall refer to the existing plan
30 identified by the Philippine Navy Directorate for Real Estate
31 Management as priority sites throughout the country.

1 SEC. 3. *PRIORITY SITES*. – The strategic locations identified by the Philippine
2 Navy Directorate for Real Estate Management as priority sites in its Strategic Basing
3 Plan 2040 by reason of its strategic location shall serve as the sites of the FOBs.

4
5 These sites include and shall be limited to the following:

- 6 1. Busuanga, Palawan;
- 7 2. Subic Bay, Zambales;
- 8 3. Mavulis Island, Batanes;
- 9 4. Lubang Island, Mindoro;
- 10 5. Surigao, Surigao del Norte;
- 11 6. Allen, Northern Samar;
- 12 7. Polilio Island, Quezon;
- 13 8. Bicobian, Divilacan, Isabela;
- 14 9. Casiguran, Aurora;
- 15 10. Sarangani, Davao Occidental'
- 16 11. Balabac, Palawan; and
- 17 12. Mapun, Tawi-tawi

18
19 SEC. 4. *PREPARATION OF THE MASTERPLAN*. – Within 60 days from the
20 implementation of this Act, upon the recommendation of the Secretaries of National
21 Defense and Budget and Management, the Masterplan shall be submitted by the
22 Philippine Navy for the approval of the President of the Philippines.

23
24 SEC. 5. *FUNDING*. – An initial appropriation of Five Billion Pesos
25 (Php5,000,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the initial budgetary requirements of this
26 Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of the
27 Masterplan as provided for in this Act shall be included in the annual General
28 Appropriations Act (GAA) of the Philippine Navy.

29
30 SEC. 6. *SEPARABILITY CLAUSE*. – If any portion or provision of this Act is
31 declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the
32 other provisions not affected thereby.

33
34 SEC. 7. *REPEALING CLAUSE*. - All laws, presidential decrees, letters of
35 instructions, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof
36 which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked,
37 repealed, amended or modified accordintly.

38
39 SEC. 8. *EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE*. – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
40 following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1)
41 newspaper of general circulation.

42 **Approved**