

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 Quezon City

4 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
5 Third Regular Session

6 HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1790



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10 Introduced by

11 BAYAN MUNA Representatives CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
12 FERDINAND R. GAITE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
13 ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,
14 GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS
15 and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

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17 RESOLUTION

18 EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
19 CALLING ON PRES. RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO RETRACT HIS PUBLIC
20 STATEMENTS THAT UNDERMINE THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGN RIGHTS
21 AND TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

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23 WHEREAS, on July 12, 2016, The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) issued a ruling
24 essentially rejecting China's self-serving "nine-dash line" claim over the all of South China Sea,
25 including what is now known as the West Philippine Sea, affirming the Philippines sovereign
26 rights to exploit marine and other natural resources in its Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) that
27 are being repeatedly violated by China's fishermen, Maritime Militia, Coast Guard and the
28 People's Liberation Army Navy;

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30 WHEREAS, despite the historic PCA ruling, President Duterte, if at all, just gave it very little
31 importance, with his first pronouncement in November 2016 saying that "*I will set aside the*
32 *arbitral ruling, I will not impose anything on China.*" This pronouncement was made in anticipation of
33 future loans, investments, and other projects that will supposedly be bankrolled by China;

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35 WHEREAS, President Duterte declared in July 2019 that he had a verbal agreement with
36 China's President Xi Jinping that would allow Chinese fishing vessels to fish in our EEZ which
37 is in clear disregard of our economic rights as enshrined under the Constitution, and as affirmed
38 by the PCA Ruling;

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40 WHEREAS, recently, President Duterte described the PCA ruling as "*a mere scrap of paper, and*
41 *should be thrown on the wastebasket.*" He also claimed that China is allegedly now in possession of
42 the West Philippine Sea, implying that it is futile to pursue the country's legitimate rights and
43 claims. He made the said undermining statements at a time when hundreds of Chinese Maritime
44 Militia were found to be swarming the Julian Felipe Reef, which falls within our Exclusive
45 Economic Zone, as affirmed by the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-
46 WPS);

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48 WHEREAS, The NTF-WPS also reported several incidents of Chinese dispersal of our own
49 ships in areas that fall within our EEZ such as the incident in Sabina Shoal between April 27-29,
50 and there was an attempt by Chinese vessels to occupy again Sabina Shoal last May 7-8;

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1 **WHEREAS**, on April 24-25 2021, several Chinese Coast Guard vessels were doing maritime
2 patrols in Bajo de Masinloc in Zambales, which were also involved in harassing local fishermen,
3 prompting the Department of Foreign Affairs to file a diplomatic protest as the vessels
4 encroached not just our Exclusive Economic Zone, but our very own territorial waters as well;
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6 **WHEREAS**, the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya has also sent three (3) petitions to the United
7 Nations protesting the Chinese incursion in our EEZ and territorial waters;
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9 **WHEREAS**, even several diplomatic protests have already been lodged against China, and,
10 even as some cabinet officials, like the Secretaries of Defense and Foreign Affairs, have already
11 issued their respective statements condemning these incidents of Chinese incursion, President
12 Duterte and his spokesperson continuously downplay the incidents, going as far as saying that
13 the issue is only exaggerated by the President's critics;
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15 **WHEREAS**, several concerned groups and individuals have already sounded the alarm as to the
16 President's statements, which could be interpreted as already surrendering the country's
17 legitimate claims and sovereign rights to China;
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19 **WHEREAS**, as Representatives of our people, it is the primordial duty of the members of the
20 House of Representatives to safeguard and uphold the interests of our people and country,
21 especially in the assertion of our sovereign rights and the defense of our sovereignty, in general;
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23 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, through this
24 Resolution, strongly calls on Pres. Rodrigo Duterte to categorically retract his public statements
25 that treats as a the historic July 12, 2016 Decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration as a
26 "*mere scrap of paper*" that can be "*thrown to the wastebasket*", and, that China is in possession of the
27 West Philippine Sea, which public pronouncements clearly undermine the country's sovereign
28 rights and territorial claims in the West Philippine Sea.
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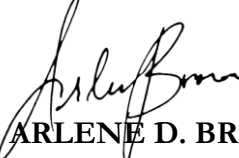
30 *Adopted,*
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34 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
35 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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38 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
39 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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41 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
42 *Bayan Muna Partylist*

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44 **REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO**
45 *ACT Teachers Partylist*

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47 **REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS**
48 *GABRIELA Women's Party*

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50 **REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**
Kabataan Partylist