

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

4
5 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
6 Third Regular Session

7
8 HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1971
9



10 Introduced by

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

16
17 RESOLUTION

18 DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE
19 COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF
20 LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED CHINESE OIL EXPLORATION WITHIN THE
21 PHILIPPINES' EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)
22
23
24

25 **WHEREAS**, on July 1, 2021, fishermen led by Randy Magu, who are members of fisher
26 confederation Bigkis ng Mangigisda, while working on their *payao*, located about 129 nautical
27 miles northwest of Infanta town, Pangasinan, found a bouy-like object, which was later on
28 identified as an ocean bottom seismometer (OBS);

29
30 **WHEREAS**, around 4:30 A.M. of the said date, the fishermen noticed the OBS flashing bright
31 red lights floating near their *payao*, an artificial reef used to attract and catch fish in open waters;
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the fishermen then brought home the OBS and turned it over to the Philippine
34 Navy last July 6, 2021;
35

36 **WHEREAS**, it was the People's Development Institute (PDI) that identified the buoy-like-
37 object as an OBS. PDI Executive Director Aurea Miclat Teves said the OBS bore Chinese
38 characters for "safely salvage" and "big reward," and a telephone number in China as indicated
39 by the country code "86;"
40

41 **WHEREAS**, Teves claimed that the OBS found by the fishermen is similar to the OBS being
42 produced by China Geological Equipment Group Co. Ltd. (CGEC), as shown in its website¹;
43

44 **WHEREAS**, according to CGEC, the OBS is "a kind of seismic observation system that place
45 geophone directly at sea bottom. In marine geophysical investigation and research, OBS can be
46 used to observe both artificial and natural seismic profile. The observation results can be used to
47 study the velocity structure of marine earth crust and mantle and kinetic characteristics of
48 subduction zone, trench and trough evolution. The results can also be used to study the seismic

¹ <http://www.intl-cgeg.com/8-4-2-4-obs-ocean-bottom-seismometer.html>
http://en.cgeg.com.cn/cpx_9230/wtyq/drswgccj/201809/t20180928_203939.html

1 tomography of natural earthquakes, seismicity and earthquake prediction etc. OBS are also
2 **widely used in oil exploration** and investigation of deep structure of the earth etc.;"²

3
4 **WHEREAS**, a similar case of suspicious floating device was also discovered back in 2015 when
5 Zambales fishermen found and towed two (2) sets of Chinese floating booms. Floating boom is
6 a barrier system designed to contain spillages of oil or other substances. The Defense
7 Department then announced that an investigation will be made on the Chinese floating booms
8 found in Zambales, but, nothing was heard on the issue thereafter;

9
10 **WHEREAS**, Section 1 of Article I of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "the national
11 territory comprises the Philippine archipelago, with all the islands and waters embraced therein,
12 and all other territories over which the Philippines has sovereignty or jurisdiction, consisting of
13 its terrestrial, fluvial, and aerial domains, including its territorial sea, the seabed, the subsoil, the
14 insular shelves, and other submarine areas. The waters around, between, and connecting the
15 islands of the archipelago, regardless of their breadth and dimensions, form part of the internal
16 waters of the Philippines;"

17
18 **WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "the State
19 shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive
20 economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens;"

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague acknowledged
23 the Philippines' sovereign rights or entitlement to an exclusive economic zone of 200 nautical
24 miles from the coast. Panatag Shoal is just 124 nautical miles west of Zambales;

25
26 **WHEREAS**, the presence of the said OBS that may point to a possible Chinese oil exploration
27 activity and other illegal foreign activities in the Philippine territory does not only disrespect the
28 Philippine sovereignty but are also detrimental to Philippine interest, security and development;

29
30 **WHEREAS**, the 2016 arbitral award is celebrated by the Filipino people as a legal victory and
31 the Philippine government should take measures to effectively enforce it to uphold the
32 Philippine national sovereignty rather than just treating it as a mere piece of paper;

33
34 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, through its
35 Committee on Natural Resources, investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged Chinese oil
36 exploration within the country's exclusive economic zone.

37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49


² http://en.cgeg.com.cn/cpzx_9230/wtyq/dswgccj/201809/t20180928_203939.html


1 *Adopted,*


REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party


REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist


REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist

2