



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
TUGUEGARAO CITY



X

◆NINTH CITY COUNCIL◆

COMMITTEE REPORT

February 1, 2024

Submitted by:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND ORDER AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

PRESENT:

- | | |
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| HON. MARK ANGELO B. DAYAG | -Chairman, Committee on Public Safety and Order and Disaster Preparedness |
| HON. RESTITUTO RAMIREZ | -Vice Chairman, Committee on Public Safety and Order and Disaster Preparedness |
| HON. GRACE B. ARAGO | -Member, Committee on Public Safety and Order and Disaster Preparedness |
| HON. RONALDO S. ORTIZ | -Member, Committee on Public Safety and Order and Disaster Preparedness |
| HON. JUDE T. BAYONA | - Member, Committee on Public Safety and Order and Disaster Preparedness |

GUEST:

- | | |
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| HON. MARIA ROSARIO B. SORIANO | - City Councilor |
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RESOURCE PERSONS:

- | | |
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| CGCPT ATANACIO P. BAGAWA, JR. | -Coast Guard District Northeastern Luzon, Chief of Staff |
| CGCPT ENSIGN CAHNA B. NANAONEN | - Coast Guard District Northeastern Luzon, Chief of Staff Member |
| ATTY. RODERICK S. IQUIN | -Assistant City Legal Officer |

FOR THE PRESIDING-OFFICER:

The Joint-Committees met and deliberated on the referral:

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 50-2024

SUBJECT:

“Draft resolution expressing full support to the Philippine government’s efforts in asserting and protecting its sovereign and all its interests over the West Philippine Sea as integral part of the Philippine territory.”

ACTION TAKEN:

The members of the committee met to discuss the subject matter with the presence of the resource person/s.

FINDINGS:

- 1.) Article I of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the Philippines is an archipelagic state and defines our national territory;

- 2.) The National Government is committed in its fight to assert the country's sovereign rights over its territory considered as the West Philippine Sea which the Philippines claims to be part of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ);
- 3.) The West Philippine Sea is currently facing territorial disputes and incursions by the Chinese Government which poses significant threat to the sovereignty, security and economic interests of the country;
- 4.) In July 2016, a tribunal of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague ruled in favor of the Philippines and against China's nine-dash line demarcation;
- 5.) The Philippine Coast Guard District Northeastern Luzon expressed its concurrence with the subject proposed city resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

Finding the subject resolution to be in order and meritorious, the Committee favorably recommends the passage and approval of the Resolution "Expressing Full Support to the Philippine Government's Efforts in Asserting and Protecting its Sovereign and All Its Interests Over the West Philippine Sea as Integral Part of the Philippine Territory."

Respectfully Submitted by:


HON. MARK ANGELO B. DAYAG

Chairman, Committee on Public Safety and Order and Disaster Preparedness


HON. RESTITUTO RAMIREZ

Vice Chairman, Committee on Public Safety and Order and Disaster Preparedness


HON. GRACE B. ARAGO

Member, Committee on Public Safety and Order and Disaster Preparedness


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Member, Committee on Public Safety and Order and Disaster Preparedness

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
City of Tuguegarao
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Ninth (9th) City Council

City Resolution No. _____, Series of 2024

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING FULL SUPPORT TO THE PHILIPPINE
GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN ASSERTING AND PROTECTING ITS SOVERIEGN
AND ALL ITS INTERESTS OVER THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA AS INTEGRAL
PART OF THE PHILIPPINE TERRITORY**

WHEREAS, Article 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides 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;

WHEREAS, the West Philippine Sea refers to the portions of waters which the Philippine government claims to be part of the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ);

WHEREAS, our National Government is committed in its fight to assert the country's sovereign rights over its territory considered as the West Philippine Sea as ordained by Administrative Order No. 29 issued by then-President Benigno Aquino III on September 5, 2012 citing Presidential Decree No. 1599 which was issued in 1978 promulgated by then President Ferdinand Marcos which established the Philippine EEZ as well as the Republic Act No. 9522 or the Baselines Law that was enacted in 2009 during the administration of then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and delineated the baselines of the Philippine archipelago;

WHEREAS, the West Philippine Sea is currently facing territorial disputes and incursions by the Chinese Government which poses significant threat to the sovereignty, security and economic interests of the country;

WHEREAS, from harassing Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) resupply missions in Philippine waters and announcing its "10-dash line" map to setting up a floating barrier near the Scarborough Shoal in September, China has been increasing its provocations against Philippines' sovereignty and sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea;

WHEREAS, in July 2016, a tribunal of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague ruled against China's nine-dash line demarcation. As the Council on Foreign Relations wrote at the time, "The panel found that China's claims of historic rights within the nine-dash line, which Beijing uses to demarcate its claims in the South China Sea, were without legal foundation. The panel also concluded that Beijing's activities within the Philippines' two hundred-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ), such as illegal fishing and environmentally ruinous artificial island construction, infringed on Manila's sovereign rights;

WHEREAS, through a lengthy analysis of the text and context of the Convention, in line with the principles set out in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the Tribunal established that the Convention supersedes any treaties in force before its coming into force. It questioned China's claim to historical rights in the region, and established that China's state practice does not show that China had been enjoying any historical rights in the South China Sea; rather, it was enjoying the freedom of the high seas and since it did not create bar to other states' usage of the same, it could not be understood as being a historical right. Furthermore, since China's publishing of the

same in its Notes Verbales in 2009, many states have objected to its claim as well. "The Tribunal concludes that the Convention superseded any historic rights or other sovereign rights or jurisdiction in excess of the limits imposed therein;

WHEREAS, this Sanggunian Panlungsod, Ninth (9th) City Council, acting as collegial body and expressing the general sentiment of our constituents, recognizes the urgent need for collective support and solidarity among local government units in protecting our sovereign rights and interests over the West Philippine Sea.

NOW THEREFORE, be it, **RESOLVED, AS IT IS NOW STRONGLY RESOLVED** that this Sanggunian strongly express its collective support for the Philippine Government's Efforts in upholding, asserting and Protecting its sovereign rights, and all its interests on the West Philippine Sea.

RESOLVED also to support government's effort to seek assistance and support from its allied nations in its undertakings and endeavor.

RESOLVED, FINALLY, that this Resolution be forwarded to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Cagayan, the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Secretary of the Department of National Defense, the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and other concerned sanggunians and local government units, for their information and possible support.

SO RESOLVED.

Certified By:

JOEL JOSEPH L. EGIPTO
Sanggunian Secretary

BIENVENIDO C. DE GUZMAN II
City Vice-Mayor