

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Metro Manila
Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand seventeen.

RESOLUTION NO. 111

RESOLUTION URGING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON THE AREA EAST OF LUZON KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE RISE, INCLUDING THE MARINE EXPLORATION FOR MINERAL DEPOSITS AND OTHER RESOURCES THEREIN WHICH MAY BE USED AS ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY

WHEREAS, Article I of the Constitution provides that our "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, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), the body of water extending up to two hundred (200) nautical miles from the archipelagic baselines, and the continental shelf, 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;

WHEREAS, when the continental shelf extends beyond two hundred (200) nautical miles, a coastal State is required under Article 76 of the UNCLOS to make a submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) which will set out the coordinates of the outer limits of the shelf accompanied by technical and scientific data to support the claim. The CLCS assesses the data submitted and makes recommendations. The outer limits of the continental shelf established by a coastal State based on these recommendations are final and binding;

WHEREAS, Benham Rise, now called the Philippine Rise as directed by the President under Executive Order No. 25, series of 2017, is a thirteen (13) million-hectare undersea region that lies approximately one hundred sixty (160) nautical miles east of Luzon and off the provinces of Isabela and Aurora. The Philippine Rise is a massive formation of basalt, a common volcanic rock, and is described as a

thickened portion of the oceanic crust of the Philippine Sea plate. Scientific data on seismic, magnetic, and other geological features of Philippine Rise indicates that the region is an extension of the country's continental shelf;

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2009, the Philippines lodged its claim with the CLCS that the Philippine Rise is part of our extended continental shelf (ECS);

WHEREAS, on April 2012, the CLCS officially recognized and approved the Philippines' claim over the Philippine Rise, giving the country sovereign rights over the territory;

WHEREAS, scientific surveys and marine explorations showed that the Philippine Rise is rich in marine resources and massive mineral and gas deposits which can help the country achieve energy sufficiency;

WHEREAS, the award of the Philippine Rise to the Philippines by the CLCS increased the areas of seabed subject to our country's sovereign rights and jurisdiction, prompting the amendment of our existing submarine maps which will likewise be used as the reference point by potential investors;

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish a trust fund with a seed amount of not less than one hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) which shall be managed by the National Coast Watch Council (NCWC) for additional scientific research, feasibility studies, marine exploration of the region, and acquisition of new equipment to improve the government's research capabilities and further enhance the development strategies of the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, To urge the Executive Branch of government to allocate funds for the additional scientific research and feasibility studies on the area east of

Luzon known as the Philippine Rise, including the marine exploration for mineral deposits and other resources therein which may be used as alternative sources of energy.

Adopted,



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Speaker

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on February 6, 2018.



CESAR STRAIT PAREJA
Secretary General