

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Res. No. **1211**

Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 57 (EO 57) issued on 06 September 2011, established the National Coast Watch System (NCWS) as the central inter-agency mechanism for a coordinated and coherent approach on maritime issues and maritime security operations towards enhancing governance in the country's maritime domain;

WHEREAS, the establishment of the NCWS is in recognition of the need for government to address maritime security challenges in the Philippines particularly those that adversely affect peace and order in the country and also those that pose a danger to the environment and the national patrimony, among others;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of EO 57 provided for the establishment of the National Coast Watch Council which was given the following powers and functions:

- a) Provide strategic direction and policy guidelines for NCWS maritime security operations, and multinational and cross-border cooperation on maritime security;
- b) Conduct periodic review of maritime security operations and render periodic reports to the President and the National Security Council (NSC);
- c) Recommend to the President policies and procedures in managing and securing the country's maritime domain, as well as the issuance of administrative rules and regulations to enhance maritime security in the Philippines;
- d) Harmonize capability plans and fund requirements relative to maritime security missions;

- e) Harmonize and coordinate the roles and relationships of different government agencies, pursuant to their mandates, relative to the policy direction of maritime security and governance framework as may be determined by the Council;
- f) Convene or dissolve, as the need arises, inter-agency committees and/or working groups to assist the Council in the performance of its functions;
- g) Exercise overall jurisdiction and direction over policy-formulation, implementation and coordination with other government agencies, experts and organizations, both foreign and local, on all maritime issues affecting the country;
- h) Enlist and/or require the support and/or assistance of any department, bureau or agency of the government in the pursuit of its mandates and functions;
- i) Promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the Council to perform its mandate under this Executive Order; and
- j) Perform such other functions as may be deemed necessary by the Chairperson for the effective discharge of its mandate or as may be directed by the President;

WHEREAS, a National Coast Watch Center headed by the Philippine Coast Guard, was also established under Section 5 of EO 57. It is tasked to perform the following functions:

- a) Gather, consolidate, synthesize and disseminate information relevant to maritime security;
- b) Develop and maintain effective communications and information systems to enhance inter-agency coordination in maritime security operations;
- c) Coordinate the conduct of maritime surveillance or response operations upon the request of a member agency or when an exigency arises;
- d) Plan, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, document and report on the conduct of maritime security operations;
- e) When so authorized by the Council, coordinate cross-border and multinational maritime security cooperation;
- f) Coordinate support for the prosecution of apprehended violators;
- g) Develop a common operating picture to enhance maritime situational awareness;
- h) Conduct periodic assessments on maritime security;
- i) When so authorized by the Council, and in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, initiate cross-border and multinational maritime security cooperation; and
- j) Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Council:

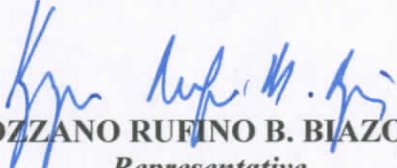
WHEREAS, there is a need to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the system, structures and other mechanisms established under EO 57 in addressing recent developments in Benham Rise in our Easter Seaboard and the alleged reported sighting of Chinese vessels near Pag-asa Island in the West Philippine Sea, as well as other incidents in the past;

WHEREAS, Congress must also be informed of the vision of the Council and the National Coast Watch Center which should include, among others, its future plans and projects in order to provide the necessary funding or enact the needed legislations for these plans and projects to come into fruition;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO

Direct The Appropriate Committees To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, On The Status Of The National Coast Watch System.

Adopted,


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