

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 32

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS) ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL FOR ITS EFFICIENT HANDLING AND FAVORABLE AWARD IN THE ARBITRATION OVER THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Arbitral Tribunal was constituted under Annex VII of the UNCLOS to handle the arbitration over the conflicting claims in the West Philippine Sea submitted by the Republic of the Philippines in January 2013 against the People's Republic of China (PRC);

WHEREAS, the UNCLOS Arbitral Tribunal conducted multiple proceedings on the arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands;

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2016, the UNCLOS Arbitral Tribunal rendered its Award rebuking the actions of the PRC in asserting its claim over the West Philippine Sea;

WHEREAS, the Award rejected the legal basis of the PRC's "nine-dash line" which it used to assert control over most of the West Philippine Sea, and sent a clear statement that its "historical claim" is not grounded in the UNCLOS;

WHEREAS, the Award showcases the importance of respect for international law and diplomacy in the ever-changing landscape of global politics and is noted by international relations experts to be a resounding success for the Philippines;

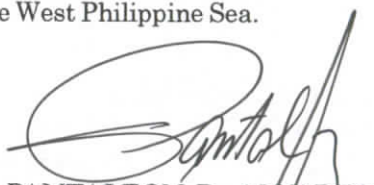
WHEREAS, the work of the Philippine delegation representing the Philippines in the arbitration court showed the country's commitment to international law and due process;

WHEREAS, Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. stated that the country "strongly affirms its respect for this milestone decision as an important contribution to ongoing efforts in addressing disputes in the South China Sea";

WHEREAS, the Philippines is deeply grateful to the UNCLOS Arbitral Tribunal for its impartial examination of facts submitted for arbitration resulting to a decision supporting the merits of our country's claims: Now, therefore, be it

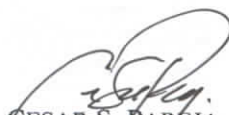
Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, To express its gratitude to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Arbitral Tribunal for its efficient handling and favorable award in the arbitration over the conflicting claims in the West Philippine Sea.

Adopted,



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Speaker

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on January 25, 2017.



CESAR S. PAREJA
Secretary General