

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 808



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article I of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares 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.”

Pursuant to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), of which the Philippines is a signatory and a party, our country and other coastal States has been recognized to have the right to establish various maritime zones and jurisdictions over which sovereignty and appurtenant sovereign rights can be exercised. Given the premise, this bill seeks to have a general declaration and definition of the maritime zones under the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

This proposed legislation aims to preserve and protect the country’s maritime rights, as it mentions in general terms the rights that the Philippines may exercise over its maritime zones. Establishing the extent of the limits of the maritime zone of the Philippine archipelago practically averts any unnecessary dispute with vessels of foreign states entering the Philippine maritime territory without our permission.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 808

Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

AN ACT
DEFINING THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Maritime
2 Zones Act”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Maritime Zones.** – The maritime zones of the Philippines shall be comprised of its
5 internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone
6 (EEZ) and continental shelf. All territories of the Philippines shall generate their respective
7 maritime zones in accordance with international law.

8
9 **SEC. 3. Archipelagic Baselines.** – Archipelagic baselines, as used in this Act, shall
10 refer to the baselines as defined under Republic Act No. 9522, entitled “An Act to Amend
11 Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 3046, as Amended by Republic Act No. 5446, to
12 Define the Archipelagic Baselines of the Philippines, and for Other Purposes”.

13
14 **SEC. 4. Internal Waters.** – The internal waters of the Philippines shall refer to the:
15 Waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines not forming part of the archipelagic
16 waters under Section 5 hereof and delimited in accordance with Article 50 of the 1982 United
17 Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS); and/or waters on the landward side
18 of the baseline of the territorial sea of territories outside of the archipelagic baselines.

19
20 The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty over its internal waters and the airspace
21 over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing
22 laws and treaties.

23
24 **SEC. 5. Archipelagic Waters.** – The archipelagic waters of the Philippines shall refer
25 to the waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines except as provided for under
26 the Section 4 hereof.

27
28 Within the archipelagic waters, closing lines for the delimitation of internal waters
29 shall be drawn pursuant to Article 50 of the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

30 The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty and jurisdiction over its archipelagic waters
31 and the airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the UNCLOS and
32 other existing laws and treaties.

1
2 **SEC. 6. Territorial Sea.** – The territorial sea of the Philippines shall refer to the belt
3 of sea measured twelve (12) nautical miles from the baselines or from the low-water line, as
4 the case may be.

5
6 The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty over its territorial sea and the airspace over
7 it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws
8 and treaties.

9
10 **SEC. 7. Contiguous Zone.** – The contiguous zone of the Philippines shall refer to the
11 waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the extent of twenty-four (24)
12 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

13 The Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over this zone in accordance with the
14 UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

15
16 **SEC. 8. Exclusive Economic Zone.** – The exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the
17 Philippines shall refer to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the
18 extent of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the
19 territorial sea is measured.

20
21 The Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over this area including the right to
22 explore and exploit living and nonliving, organic or nonorganic resources in accordance with
23 the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

24
25 **SEC. 9. Continental Shelf.** – The continental shelf of the Philippines shall be
26 comprised of the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its
27 territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the
28 continental margin, or to a distance of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines
29 from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, where the outer edge of the
30 continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

31
32 Continental shelves extending beyond two hundred (200) nautical miles from the
33 baselines shall be delineated in accordance with Article 76 of the UNCLOS.

34
35 The Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over this area including the right to
36 explore and exploit and nonliving, organic or nonorganic resources in accordance with the
37 UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

38
39 **SEC. 10. Adherence to Existing Laws.** – Other rights of the Philippines not stipulated
40 in this Act shall be exercised in accordance with international law and the law and regulations
41 of the Philippines.

42
43 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** – If any portions or provision of this Act is declared
44 unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall
45 continue to be in full force and effect.

46
47 **SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** – All laws inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of
48 this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

49

1 **SEC. 13. Effectivity.**— This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.