

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

6409
HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

International maritime and shipping issues are increasingly more complex, technical, and far-reaching in impact to the national economy, the Filipino seafarers and the overall administration of maritime affairs as a result of the worldwide maritime trend towards efficiency and the protection of the environment.

In addition, the maritime sector is a key component of the national economy that will require further measures to enhance the skills of the Filipino seafarers, improve the competitiveness of the Philippine flag in the global merchant shipping industry and strengthen the maritime administrative structure of the country.

Hence, the government should recognize the need for technical assistance and support for the development of the maritime and shipping industry especially in creating a pool of maritime law experts, considering the fact that the Philippines is among the world's largest supplier of manpower for the international maritime fleet, both for officers and seafarers, including international cruise liners as the Filipino seafarers are considered the "preferred seafarers of choice" of international manning principals.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping, which plays a significant role in the development of the Philippine maritime industry.

The Philippines is a Party to the IMO Convention as well as to the conventions establishing the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPFC) and International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), whose work is related to IMO

Hence, there is also a recognized and compelling need to further strengthen the country's links with the IMO, IOPCF and IMSO in support of the government's economic and social agenda.



ATTY. SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.

Representative

1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE PERMANENT MISSION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AND RELATED
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (PM-IMO)
IN LONDON, UK

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “Permanent Philippine Mission to the International Maritime Organization Act of 2017”.

SECTION 2. A coherent and effective maritime and shipping policy is a key enabler and promoter of national development, and should aim to create opportunities for sustainable economic growth and higher living standards for Filipinos, especially for Filipino seafarers in accordance with the national interest and efforts towards an inclusive economic growth of the country.

SECTION 3. There is hereby established and created a Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the International Maritime Organization and

Related Inter-Governmental Organizations, based in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

SECTION 4. The Mission henceforth shall be considered a distinct diplomatic mission and post of the Republic of the Philippines responsible for leading Philippine representation and promoting maritime and shipping interests in the IMO, IOPCF and IMSO.

SECTION 5. The initial appropriations necessary to achieve the objectives of this Order shall be drawn from existing appropriations of the Department of Foreign Affairs and supplemented by other approved sources. Succeeding appropriations shall be incorporated in the annual budget proposals of the Department of Foreign Affairs beginning 2018 and, where appropriate, in the budget proposals of the Department of Transportations, MARINA, PCG and PPA.

SECTION 6. If any provision hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.