

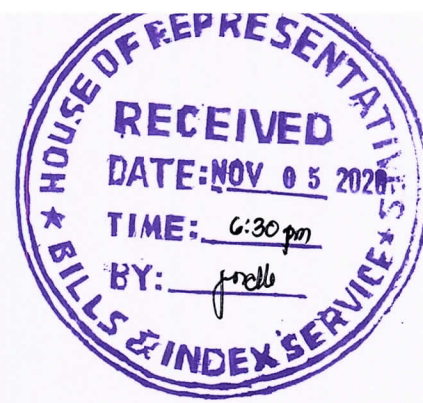
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7965



Introduced by Hon. KRISTINE ALEXIE BESAS TUTOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our country needs a Philippine Coast Guard fit for the 21st Century.

Enforcement of our maritime laws can be more effective with the gradual addition of PCG field offices, bases, and facilities at a pace that is prudent and realistically affordable through the national budget and official development assistance.

It is also time for the country to deploy and operate microsatellites, smart buoys, and unmanned drones.

These steps would enable the PCG to expand and deepen its coverage at strategic locations nationwide.

These solutions are contained in this bill seeking the amendment of Republic Act 9993 also known as the Philippines Coast Guard Act of 2009.

This bill gives the mandate to the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Information and Communication Technology, Department of National Defense, and the Philippine Space Agency, to cause the **creation, deployment, management, and operation of maritime microsatellites for specific multiple-purpose mission tasking** consistent with the missions, roles, powers, and functions of the Philippine Coast Guard. The Department of Transportation may commission through open, transparent, and full-disclosure international bidding consistent with procurement laws, the creation, deployment, management, and operation of the maritime microsatellites.

The bill provides that each of the following islands and islands groups shall have at least two Coast Guard bases, each with a basic complement of resources in terms of personnel, vessels, equipment, and support services to be determined by the Secretary of Transportation, upon recommendation of the PCG Admiral, and in consultation with the Civil Service Commission, Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Information and Communication Technology. The major islands and island groups are enumerated as follows:

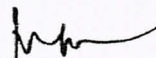
1. the Batanes group of Islands;
2. the Kalayaan Island Group;
3. the Tawi-Tawi Islands;
4. the Basilan Islands;
5. the Dinagat Islands;

6. the Polilio Islands;
7. Catanduanes Island;
8. Samar Island;
9. Leyte Island;
10. Bohol Island Province;
11. Guimaras Island Province;
12. Occidental Mindoro and adjacent islands;
13. Oriental Mindoro and adjacent islands;
14. Panay Island;
15. Siquijor Island;
16. Marinduque Island Province;
17. Romblon Island Province;
18. Masbate Island Province; and
19. Camiguin Island Province.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to approve the Basic Complement of Coast Guard Resources Program of the major islands and island groups. The approved program shall explicitly state the pace and phasing-in of the resources upgrades, cognizant of appropriations constraints and available official development assistance. The Program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. coast guard personnel to man each base and crew every patrol vessel assigned to each base;
2. civilian professionals and specialists in the fields of marine engineering, meteorology, electronics and communications engineering, satellite communications technology; marine biology, oceanography, and disaster preparedness and response;
3. patrol vessels for maritime security, search and rescue, and law enforcement operations;
4. unmanned drones for aerial, sea surface, and underwater patrols and interdiction; and
5. remotely-accessible electronically smart buoys for multiple purpose mission tasking.

Given the urgent necessity, swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


KRISTINE ALEXIE BESAS TUTOR
Representative, 3rd District, Bohol

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7965

Introduced by: Hon. KRISTINE ALEXIE BESAS TUTOR

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 9993, ALSO KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINES
COASTGUARD ACT OF 2009, INSTITUTIONALIZING RESOURCES AND
TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Section 1. The Short Title of this Act shall be “*The Philippine Coast Guard Upgrade and Advancement Act of 2020*”.

Section 2. Amendment of Republic Act 9993. A new Section 24 is hereby included in Republic Act 9993 stating as follows:

Sec. 24. Major Islands and Basic Complement of Coast Guard Resources. Each of the following islands and islands groups shall have at least two Coast Guard bases, each with a basic complement of resources in terms of personnel, vessels, equipment, and support services to be determined by the Secretary of Transportation, upon recommendation of the PCG Admiral, and in consultation with the Civil Service Commission, Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Information and Communication Technology. The major islands and island groups for purposes of this Act are:

1. the Batanes group of Islands;
2. the Kalayaan Island Group;
3. the Tawi-Tawi Islands;
4. the Basilan Islands;
5. the Dinagat Islands;
6. the Polilio Islands;
7. Catanduanes Island;
8. Samar Island;
9. Leyte Island;
10. Bohol Island Province;
11. Guimaras Island Province;
12. Occidental Mindoro and adjacent islands;
13. Oriental Mindoro and adjacent islands;
14. Panay Island;
15. Siquijor Island;
16. Marinduque Island Province;
17. Romblon Island Province;

18. Masbate Island Province; and
19. Camiguin Island Province.

The Secretary of Transportation shall approve the Basic Complement of Coast Guard Resources Program of the major islands and island groups. The approved program shall explicitly state the pace and phasing-in of the resources upgrades, cognizant of appropriations constraints and available official development assistance. The Program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. coast guard personnel to man each base and crew every patrol vessel assigned to each base;
2. civilian professionals and specialists in the fields of marine engineering, meteorology, electronics and communications engineering, satellite communications technology; marine biology, oceanography, and disaster preparedness and response;
3. patrol vessels for maritime security, search and rescue, and law enforcement operations;
4. unmanned drones for aerial, sea surface, and underwater patrols and interdiction; and
5. remotely-accessible electronically smart buoys for multiple purpose mission tasking

Section 3. Use of Satellite Technology. A new Section 25 is hereby included in Republic Act 9993 stating as follows:

Sec. 25. Maritime Microsatellites. The Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Information and Communication Technology, Department of National Defense, and the Philippine Space Agency, shall cause the creation, deployment, management, and operation of maritime microsatellites for specific multiple-purpose mission tasking consistent with the missions, roles, powers, and functions of the Philippine Coast Guard. The Department of Transportation may commission through open, transparent, and full-disclosure international bidding consistent with procurement laws, the creation, deployment, management, and operation of the maritime microsatellites.

Section 4. Period of Implementation. The resources and technology upgrade of the Philippine Coast Guard provided under this Act shall be implemented over a period not exceeding three (3) years after its effectivity: Provided, however, that payments for amortization of outstanding multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period.

Section 5. Renumbering of Provisions. The affected provisions of R.A. 9993 are hereby renumbered accordingly.

Section 6. Appropriations. Funding to implement this Act shall be sourced from annual appropriations, government bonds, concessional grants and technical assistance from local and foreign sources, and foreign loans. Implementation of projects requiring multi-year funding may be done in phases as may be deemed necessary.

1 **Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** All implementing rules and
2 regulations necessary to enforce this Act must be issued and in effect not later than
3 ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.
4
5 **Section 8. Effectivity.** This Act shall take place fifteen (15) days after publication
6 in two newspapers of national general circulation.

Approved,