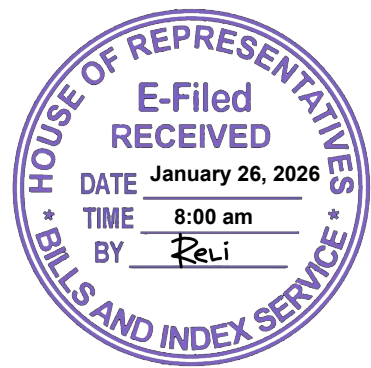


TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 7272

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines are acknowledged as the nation's protectors, with the aim of preserving national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The State aspires to improve the AFP to successfully carry out the Philippine Navy's mission "To organize, train, equip, maintain, develop and deploy forces for prompt and sustained naval and maritime operations..." By allocating funds for their formation, this measure seeks to institutionalize the establishment of Philippine Navy Forward Operating Bases.

FOBs are small-scale naval and military installations that help the Philippine Navy perform its duties and may be improved for the sake of national security. Locations for FOBs are chosen based on the Strategic Basing Plan 2040, which lists priority sites determined by the Philippine Navy.

A masterplan for the FOBs must be submitted by the Philippine Navy to the President for approval. Five billion pesos will be set aside as an initial appropriation, and additional financing will be included in the Philippine Navy's yearly General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Insisting the importance of enhancing the Philippine Navy's capacity, capability, and operational preparedness while highlighting the AFP's constitutional duty to defend the people and the State, a Strategic Basing Plan for 2040 will be introduced stressing the need for prompt execution in light of current international conditions and West Philippine Sea occurrences.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 7272

AN ACT

**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NAVY FORWARD OPERATING BASES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration Of Policy. – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is the protector of the people and the State. The goal of the AFP is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.

The State likewise recognizes the mission of the Philippine Navy, as a branch of the AFP, to organize, train, equip, maintain, develop and deploy forces for the prompt and sustained naval and maritime operations in support of the United Commands in the accomplishment of the AFP mission.

It is the policy of the State to modernize the AFP to a level where it can effectively and fully perform its constitutional mandate to uphold the sovereignty and preserve the patrimony of the Republic of the Philippines.

In order to effectively carry out its mandate, the establishment of Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in the sites identified by the Philippine Navy is hereby pursued by the State.

SEC 2. Definition Of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- A. Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) – It shall refer to a small – scale naval and military facility or outpost where the Philippine Navy can carry out its basic functions and duties and which can serve as a potential site for future upgrade and expansion, for national security purposes.
- B. Strategic Basing Plan 2040 – It shall refer to the existing plan identified by the Philippine Navy Directorate for Real Estate Management as priority sites throughout the country.

SEC 3. Priority Sites. – The strategic locations identified by the Philippine Navy Directorate for Real Estate Management as priority sites in its Strategic Basing Plan 2040 by reason of its strategic location shall serve as the sites of the FOBs.

These sites include and shall be limited to the following:

- 1. Busuanga, Palawan;
- 2. Subic Bay, Zambales;
- 3. Mavulis Island, Batanes;
- 4. Lubang Island, Mindoro;
- 5. Surigao, Surigao del Norte;
- 6. Allen, Northern Samar;
- 7. Polilio Island, Quezon;
- 8. Bicobian, Divilacan, Isabela;
- 9. Casiguran, Aurora;
- 10. Sarangani, Davao Occidental;
- 11. Balabac, Palawan; and
- 12. Mapun, Tawi-tawi

SEC 4. Preparation Of The Masterplan. – Within 60 days from the implementation of this Act, upon the recommendation of the Secretaries of National Defense and Budget and Management, the Masterplan shall be submitted by the Philippine Navy for the approval of the President of the Philippines.

SEC 5. Funding. – An initial appropriation of Five Billion Pesos (Php5,000,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the initial budgetary requirements of this Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of the Masterplan as provided for in this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the Philippine Navy.

SEC 6. Separability Clause. – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

SEC 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC 8. Effectivity Clause. – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

