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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1128

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO,
Gabriela Women's Party Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO**

RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE PAX SILICA INITIATIVE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ECONOMIC SECURITY ZONE IN THE LUZON ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that the State shall pursue an independent foreign policy, and in its relations with other states, the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination;

WHEREAS, Article XVIII, Section 25 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution prohibits foreign military bases, troops, or facilities in the Philippines except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate and recognized as a treaty by the other contracting state;

WHEREAS, the Mutual Defense Treaty, Visiting Forces Agreement, and Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement perpetuate colonial subjugation, transforming the Philippines into a strategic outpost for US military and economic hegemony in Asia;

WHEREAS, successive Philippine administrations, including that of President Marcos Jr., have systematically subordinated Philippine defense policy to the US "Island Chain Strategy" and "Indo-Pacific Strategy"—frameworks designed not to serve Philippine national interests but to perpetuate American regional military dominance;

WHEREAS, under these treaties, agreements, and related defense policies, the Philippine government has allowed the United States to install forward-operating bases and to deploy foreign military personnel and contractors in our country on a

rotational basis—effectively exploiting a loophole to circumvent the Constitutional prohibition against permanent foreign military bases, troops, and facilities;

WHEREAS, the Marcos Jr. administration has entered into the Pax Silica Initiative, which, despite being marketed as a development program, is structured to integrate the Philippines into US strategic supply chains for critical minerals, semiconductors and emerging technologies, further deepening the country's structural dependence on American geopolitical and military priorities;

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2026, the Philippines formally acceded to the US-led Pax Silica Declaration and announced the allocation of a 4,000-acre Economic Security Zone (ESZ) to be developed as an industrial hub within the Luzon Economic Corridor in New Clark City, Tarlac;[1]

WHEREAS, the legal category of "Economic Security Zone" does not exist in any existing Philippine statute, executive issuance, or Constitutional provision. It is a "new model" invented abroad and apparently offered to, and accepted by, the Marcos administration that allows the US to have an enhanced access to the Philippines' critical mineral reserves, workforce, energy resources and strategic position;

WHEREAS, the United States government has declared that the ESZ will be governed not under Philippine law, but under a parallel legal architecture invented and administered by the United States—in clear surrender of Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity. The US State Department's fact sheet[2] on the ESZ discloses that the zone will be governed through "joint governance" to facilitate "sovereign alignment and shared upside," and will be operated under "American expertise in institutions and legal regimes," including "internationally enforceable contracts, transparent regulatory standards, and expert dispute resolution";

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2026, US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg posted on X (formerly Twitter), in explicit reference to the ESZ and the Pax Silica Initiative, that: "We are working with the Philippines to build a FORWARD DEPLOYED INDUSTRIAL BASE in Luzon — a peaceful platform designed to secure vital supply-chain inputs for American and aligned companies";

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[1] **"New Clark City tagged as AI hub for Philippines' Pax Silica entry."** ***PhilStar,*** **21 April 2026,** https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/04/21/2522420/new-clark-city-tagged-ai-hub-philippines-pax-silica-entry. **Accessed 25 April 2026.**
Chi, Cristina. "PH signs on to US supply chain alliance, lands first 4,000-acre industrial zone." ***PhilStar,*** **17 April 2026,** https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/04/17/2521622/ph-signs-us-supply-chain-alliance-lands-first-4000-acre-industrial-zone. **Accessed 25 April 2026.**

[2] **U.S. Department of State - Office of the Spokesperson.** ***U.S. and Philippines Plan the Launch of Historic 4,000 Acre Economic Security Zone to Shore Up Supply Chains.*** **16 April 2025,** https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2026/04/u-s-and-philippines-plan-the-launch-of-historic-4000-acre-economic-security-zone-to-shore-up-supply-chains/. **Accessed 25 April 2026.**

WHEREAS, the phrase "forward deployed" is not the language of civilian economic partnership but the language of military strategy—specifically referring to the prepositioning of assets, logistics infrastructure, and industrial capacity within a theater of anticipated military operations. The characterization of the ESZ as a "forward deployed industrial base" reflects that its real purpose is to serve the interest of the US military and not of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, Article 52 (2) of the Geneva Conventions defines military objectives as objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage;

WHEREAS, the open characterization of the ESZ as a "forward deployed industrial base" not only effectively designates the proposed hub as a potential military target in the event of armed conflict in the Indo-Pacific region, but it also exposes the Filipino people, the surrounding communities, and the Philippine territory within and adjacent to the zone to grave and perennial risk of destruction in war;

WHEREAS, the Filipino people have the right to know, in full and precise terms, the entirety of what the Marcos administration has agreed to in connection with the ESZ—including the specific legal instruments signed, the dates on which binding commitments were made, which Philippine officials authorized those commitments, and the concrete operational meaning of "joint governance" as measured against Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity;

WHEREAS, the ESZ must be understood not in isolation but as part of an accelerating and coherent pattern of US-directed Philippine militarization under the Marcos Jr. administration: the expansion of Balikatan joint war exercises; the planned Davao Defense Fuel Support Point for US troops; the proposed US ammunition manufacturing and storage facility in Subic Bay; and now the Pax Silica ESZ in New Clark City—each representing a distinct piece of a unified infrastructure of US wartime logistics and strategic economic extraction;

WHEREAS, as representatives of the people, Congress should oppose the conversion of the Philippines into a platform for US military operations and war preparation, which serves the interest of an imperialist country at the direct expense of Philippine sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the welfare and safety of the Filipino people.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives call for an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the participation of the Philippines in the Pax Silica Initiative and the establishment of the Economic Security Zone in the Luzon Economic Corridor.

Adopted,

REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-List

REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Gabriela Women's Party

REP. RENEE LOUISE M. CO
KABATAAN Party-List