

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Manila City

Nineteenth Congress

Third Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 239

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE COURAGE,  
VIGILANCE, AND NATIONALISM OF LOCAL  
FISHERFOLK OF MASBATE FOR RECOVERING AND  
TURNING OVER TO PROPER AUTHORITIES THE  
UNMANNED UNDERWATER VEHICLE THAT  
INTRUDED THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE  
PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, it is a declared policy of the State to recognize nationalism of all members of the society regardless of social, cultural, or economic background;

WHEREAS, in the early morning of 30 December 2024, three local fishermen, namely Mr. Jojo Villanueva Cantela, 39, Mr. Rodnie Magno Valenzuela, 31, and Mr. Jeric Terana Arojado, 17, discovered an unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) or underwater drone near the shores of Brgy. Inarawan, San Pascual, in the province of Masbate;

WHEREAS, immediately after recovering the drone, the fishermen brought it to barangay officials, who later surrendered the device to the Philippine National Police;

WHEREAS, despite the inherent danger of retrieving an unfamiliar object in open waters, the three (3) fishermen deemed it paramount to take the drone to surrender it to proper authorities;

WHEREAS, the drone, marked "HY-119", is approximately 3.5 meters in length and 24 centimeters in diameter, and weighs around 94 kilograms;

WHEREAS, the recovered drone was placed under the custody of the Explosive Ordnance Division/ K9 Regional Explosive and Canine Unit 5 (EOD/K9 RECU5) at Camp Simeon A. Ola, Legazpi, and was subsequently surrendered to the Philippine Navy for forensic analysis and proper disposition;

WHEREAS, the Senate as an institution is aligned with the defense and security sector in the recovery of the drone highlighting the significance of cooperation with local fisherfolk and maritime stakeholder;

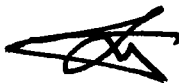
WHEREAS, the discovery and retrieval of the drone in Philippine waters have called the attention of our defense sector, as the same may have implications in relation to laws such as the Philippine Maritime Zones Act and the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act, and our country's territorial integrity and national security;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon us to commend the vigilance of members of our communities in reporting suspicious activities, as a vital part of the government's efforts to protect national security and sovereignty;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to highlight the value of collaborating with our local fisherfolk and other maritime stakeholders to complement our naval assets in terms of keeping an eye on our maritime zones: Now, therefore, be it

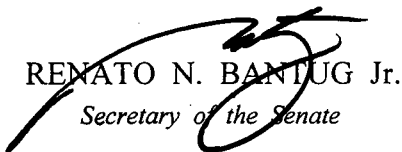
*Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To commend the courage, vigilance, and nationalism of the three (3) local fisherfolk, namely, Mr. Jojo Villanueva Cantela, Mr. Rodnie Magno Valenzuela, and Mr. Jeric Terana Arojado, for recovering and turning over to the proper authorities the unmanned underwater vehicle that intruded the maritime zones of the Philippines.*

Adopted,



FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO  
*President of the Senate*

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on  
January 15, 2025.



RENATO N. BANIUG Jr.  
*Secretary of the Senate*