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**SENATE**

**P.S. RES. NO. 1085**

RECEIVED BY: 

**Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino**

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE "PROVISIONAL UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND CHINA FOR THE RESUPPLY MISSIONS TO BRP SIERRA MADRE IN AYUNGIN SHOAL**

**Whereas**, the Philippines has a long-standing commitment to upholding its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the West Philippine Sea;

**Whereas**, the Philippines has the inherent right to assert its sovereignty and jurisdiction over its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf, in accordance with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 2016 arbitral award;

**Whereas**, incidents of disruption during resupply missions in Ayungin Shoal have occurred in the past, raising concerns about the need for transparent and peaceful resolutions to maritime disputes in the region;

**Whereas**, a on 21 July 2024, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reported that after a series of consultations and following constructive discussions at the 9th Bilateral Consultation Mechanism meeting on the South China Sea on 2 July 2024, the Philippines and China have "reached an understanding on the provisional agreement" for resupply missions to a beached naval ship in the South China Sea;<sup>1</sup>

**Whereas**, on 21 July 2024, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reported that the Philippines and China have

**Whereas**, during the post-State of the Nation Address forum, National Security Adviser Eduardo Año said the two states must give consent before either side could publicize the arrangement;<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/philippines-china-agree-on-provisional-arrangement-for-west-philippine-sea-resupply-missions-says-dfa> and <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1229905>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1229905>

**Whereas**, following the provisional understanding between the Philippines and China, the former successfully conducted a rotation and resupply (RoRe) mission to troops stationed on Ayungin Shoal in the South China Sea without any untoward incidents on 28 July 2024;<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas**, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has not provided transparency regarding the content and details of the provisional understanding for the Philippines' resupply missions to BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal;

**Whereas**, the Philippines maintains its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and consultation, and acknowledges the importance of the rotation and reprovisioning (RORE) mission to the BRP Sierra Madre in the Ayungin Shoal;

**Whereas**, transparency and accountability are fundamental principles in governance, especially in understandings that impact national interests, such as maritime security and territorial integrity;

**Whereas**, the negotiation process of the recent provisional understanding between the Philippines and China concerning resupply missions to BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal lacks public disclosure and clarity;

**Whereas**, the public's right to information on matters affecting the nation's sovereignty is paramount and it is imperative for the DFA to publicly disclose the contents of the provisional understanding signed between the Philippines and China to ensure that the sovereignty, maritime security and territorial integrity of the Philippines was not compromised during the negotiation process; **Now, Therefore, be it resolved**,

**As it is hereby resolved** by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct as it hereby directs the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the contents and details of the recent provisional understanding between the Philippines and China regarding the resupply missions to BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal.

*Adopted,*

  
**FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.inquirer.net/409957/ph-resumes-ayungin-resupply-trips-after-deal-with-china/>