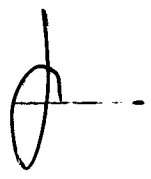


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

2024
Office of the Secretary
24 SEP 17 P 6:47

SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 1202

RECORDED


Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD ON BOARD BRP TERESA MAGBANUA FOR THEIR COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO PROTECT THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE PHILIPPINES OVER THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

1 Whereas, the Philippines has remained firm in its stand that the West
2 Philippine Sea (WPS) is located within the country's exclusive economic zone relying
3 on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and further solidified by the
4 2016 arbitral award;

5 Whereas, the Escoda Shoal is a sandbank located just 75 nautical miles from
6 the coastline of Palawan and part of the WPS;

7 Whereas, China has consistently claimed that the Escoda Shoal is part of its
8 Nansha Islands and was reported to have brazenly created artificial islands that led
9 to the destruction of maritime features therein as evidenced by the piles of dead and
10 crushed corals dumped in the sandbars of the shoal;

11 Whereas, President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr. called to intensify the
12 efforts of our security sector to protect and secure our country's sovereign rights over
13 the WPS;

14 Whereas, on 15 April 2024, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) deployed one
15 of its largest and most modern patrol vessels, BRP Teresa Magbanua (MRV09701),
16 to monitor closely China's reclamation activities, as well as maintain the Philippines'
17 presence in the WPS;

18 Whereas, monitoring of the Escoda Shoal revealed the consistent presence of
19 Chinese maritime militia vessels with the People's Liberation Army Navy vessels and
20 helicopters and China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels;

1 *Whereas, attempts to intimidate and harass BRP Teresa Magbanua were*
2 *made through the presence of Chinese vessels as large as CCG 5901 and the*
3 *conduct of military exercises by China's People's Liberation Army;*

4 *Whereas, on 31 August 2024, the National Maritime Council and the PSG*
5 *reported that a CCG vessel intentionally rammed the BRP Teresa Magbanua*
6 *repeatedly despite the latter's unprovoked action and presence in Escoda Shoal;*

7 *Whereas, as part of its harassment efforts, the CCG even blocked PCG*
8 *vessels on rotation and reprovisioning missions to BRP Teresa Magbanua which led*
9 *the crew to suffer hunger and thirst;*

10 *Whereas, the failure of resupply missions led the crew to settle for lugaw,*
11 *boiled rainwater and droplets from the vessel's air conditioning system as their*
12 *source of nutrition and hydration;*

13 *Whereas, on 15 September 2024, BRP Teresa Magbanua was compelled to*
14 *depart from Escoda Shoal and return to the port of Puerto Princesa in Palawan*
15 *because of unfavorable weather conditions, depleting supplies, structural damage to*
16 *the vessel caused by the ramming incidents, and the dire conditions of the PCG*
17 *crew;*

18 *Whereas, the crucial and immeasurable contribution of the officers and crew*
19 *of the BRP Teresa Magbanua should be recognized and commended: Now,*
20 *therefore, be it,*

21 **RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, That the Senate of the**
22 **Philippines commends and lauds the brave men and women of the Philippine Coast**
23 **Guard on board the BRP Teresa Magbanua for their dedication and commitment to**
24 **protect the sovereign rights of the Philippines over the West Philippine Sea.**

Adopted,



ROBINHOOD PADILLA
Senator