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I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
Thirty-Seventh Guam Legislature

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Ufisinan I Maga'håga
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear *Maga'håga* Leon Guerrero:

Transmitted herewith is **Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)**, “**Relative to expressing the support of the people of Guam for the Republic of the Philippines’ legitimate and historical claim to the West Philippine Sea, reaffirming the crucial Role of International Law, and acknowledging the invaluable ties and common history between Guam and the Philippines,**” which was duly and regularly adopted by *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on January 26, 2024.

Sincerely,


AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary

Enclosure (1)



I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

William A. Parkinson
Jesse A. Lujan
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
Joe S. San Agustin
Roy A. B. Quinata
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Chris Barnett
Frank Blas, Jr.
Joanne Brown
Christopher M. Dueñas
Thomas J. Fisher
Sabina Flores Perez
Amanda L. Shelton
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

Relative to expressing the support of the people of Guam for the Republic of the Philippines' legitimate and historical claim to the West Philippine Sea, reaffirming the crucial role of International Law, and acknowledging the invaluable ties and common history between Guam and the Philippines.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS, the West Philippine Sea, a semi-enclosed sea located in the**
4 **southwestern part of the South China Sea, holds tremendous strategic, economic, and**
5 **environmental significance, not just for its surrounding nations, but for the international**
6 **community; and**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of the Philippines, based on its historical records,
2 archaeological evidence, and legal instruments, possesses enduring claims over
3 territories and maritime zones within the West Philippine Sea, notably the Spratly
4 Islands, Scarborough Shoal, and their adjacent waters; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS),
6 to which both the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America are
7 signatories, establishes the legal framework that delineates the rights and
8 responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans, emphasizing the principle
9 of freedom of navigation, overflight, and the peaceful use of the seas; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague,
11 acknowledging the principles set by UNCLOS, ruled overwhelmingly in favor of the
12 Philippines, declaring that China's expansive "nine-dash line" claim over the South
13 China Sea has no legal basis and confirmed the Philippines' sovereign rights over its
14 exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the West Philippine Sea; and

15 **WHEREAS**, regional stability in the Pacific and the broader international
16 community is contingent upon the respect for, and adherence to, international law,
17 including the resolution of territorial and maritime disputes through peaceful means,
18 without resorting to threat or use of force whereby the attempt to seize the West
19 Philippine Sea from the Philippines is an act of maritime colonialism; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Guam is deeply concerned by the increasing environmental
21 degradation in one of the world's most biodiverse marine ecosystems, where dredging
22 and construction activities have led to the direct loss of over three thousand (3,000)
23 acres of coral reefs, endangering species dependent on these habitats and affecting
24 fishery resources. Dredging has increased water turbidity, threatening marine life by

1 blocking sunlight, affecting photosynthesis in marine plants, and potentially harming
2 fish larvae and other marine organisms; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the unique geographical position of Guam underscores the
4 importance of cultivating and nurturing harmonious relations with its neighboring
5 nations and territories in the Pacific, advocating for peaceful resolutions and mutual
6 understanding; and

7 **WHEREAS**, a multitude of shared experiences, from trade, education,
8 healthcare, cultural exchanges, and familial ties, have fostered an environment of
9 mutual respect, trust, and camaraderie between Guam and the Philippines; and

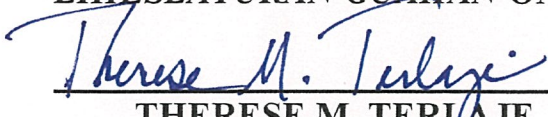
10 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the Guam Legislature) stands firmly in
11 support of the Republic of the Philippines in its rightful and historic claim to the West
12 Philippine Sea as affirmed by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, and
13 emphasizes the paramount importance of upholding international law; now therefore,
14 be it

15 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
16 on behalf of the people of Guam, express the support of the people of Guam for the
17 Republic of the Philippines' legitimate and historical claim to the West Philippine Sea,
18 reaffirm the crucial role of International Law, and acknowledge the invaluable ties and
19 common history between Guam and the Philippines; and be it further

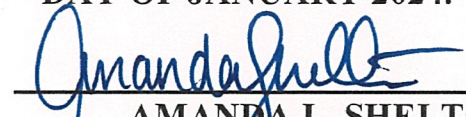
20 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
21 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to His Excellency
22 Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the
23 Philippines; His Excellency Jose Manuel "Babe" del Gallego Romualdez, Philippine
24 Ambassador to the United States; the Honorable Enrique A. Manalo, Secretary of
25 Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines; the Honorable Patrick John U.

- 1 Hilado, Consul General of the Philippines on Guam; and to the Honorable Lourdes A.
- 2 Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 26TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024.



THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker



AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary