



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

All Bureau Directors

The Executive Directors
Manila Bay Coordinating Office
River Basin Control Office
National Water Resources Board
Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

The Administrator
National Mapping Resource and Information Authority

The General Manager
Laguna Lake Development Authority

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE MEETING RE: THE UNNUMBERED
SUBSTITUTE BILL TO HOUSE BILLS NO. 69, 8669, 8708, 8720,
8816, 8893, 8971, 9050 and 9116, entitled "AN ACT ESTABLISHING
A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY, PROMOTING
STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES,
REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE NATIONAL COAST
WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL MARITIME
MONITORING SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" FROM
THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 16 November 2023

Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
www.denr.gov.ph

In reference to the electronic letter received by our Office, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives will hold a meeting on **21 November 2023, (Tuesday), 9:00 AM, at Rolando Andaya Hall, House of Representatives, Q.C.** for the first deliberation on the UNNUMBERED SUBSTITUTE BILL TO HOUSE BILLS NO. 69, 8669, 8708, 8720, 8816, 8893, 8971, 9050 and 9116, entitled "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY, PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," authored by Reps. Benitez, Valmayor, et al.

Revenue Provisions:

Sec. 24. Inclusion in Strategic Investment Priority Plan. - x x x

Sec. 25. Blue Economic Zones. - x x x

In this regard, we request your additional comments, if any. Kindly send them on or before **20 November 2023, at 5:00 PM** via email at denrlllo@denr.gov.ph. Further, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith are the electronic letter, Agenda, and the Unnumbered House Bill for your reference.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs

COMW Invitation on November 21, 2023 Meetingmessages

House Committee on Ways And Means <committee.waysandmeans@house.gov.ph>

Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 10:1

AM

cc: Office of the DENR Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>

cc: DENR Legislative Liaison Office <denrlo@denr.gov.ph>

Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

November 15, 2023

SEC. MA. ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA*Department Secretary*

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dear *Secretary Loyzaga*:The **Committee on Ways and Means** will be having a **meeting** on the date, time and place indicated hereunder:

Date : **November 21, 2023 (Tuesday)**
Time : **9:00 AM**
Place : **Rolando Andaya Hall, House of Representatives, Q.C.**
Agenda : ***Please see attachment(s)***

In this regard, we would like to invite you to participate in the said briefing and share your views, comments and recommendations on the above-mentioned concern.

Should you be unable to attend the scheduled meeting, may we request you to send a representative on your behalf, with a written authorization designating the concerned officer as your duly authorized representative.

For confirmation of your attendance or any inquiry on the matter, please contact the Committee Secretariat at telephone nos. 89314955 (DL) or 89315001 (TL) Loc. 7643 or Irene Revilla at 09171061399.

Thank you and we look forward to your cooperation.

JOEY SARTE SALCEDA

Chairperson, Committee on Ways and Means

For the Chairman:

(Sgd) TEEJAY WAINU E. HERNANDEZ

Legislative Committee Secretary

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

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2 attachments

 **1 AGENDA NOVEMBER21'23 (cont of del on CREATE MORE bill and auto refs).pdf**
94K

 **2B CEA - Sub Bill_Blue Economy_CLEAN COPY as of Aug30_FINAL FINAL_updated authors_housekeeping_as of 14Sep2023.pdf**
394K

DENR Legislative Liaison Office <denrll@denr.gov.ph>
o: "Angelique Pearl V. Miranda" <apvmiranda@denr.gov.ph>

Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 10:14 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

 **1 AGENDA NOVEMBER21'23 (cont of del on CREATE MORE bill and auto refs).pdf**
94K

 **2B CEA - Sub Bill_Blue Economy_CLEAN COPY as of Aug30_FINAL FINAL_updated authors_housekeeping_as of 14Sep2023.pdf**
394K

DENR Legislative Liaison Office <denrll@denr.gov.ph>
o: House Committee on Ways And Means <committee.waysandmeans@house.gov.ph>

Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 10:14 AM

Confirming receipt of your email. Thank you.

DENR-LLO
[Quoted text hidden]

Office of the DENR Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>
o: House Committee on Ways And Means <committee.waysandmeans@house.gov.ph>
c: DENR Legislative Liaison Office <denrll@denr.gov.ph>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 2:08 PM

Greetings!

Thank you for your email. Please be informed that we have endorsed the matter to the **Legislative Liaison Office (LLO)** led by **DIR ROMIROSE B. PADIN**.

You may follow-up though the following details, citing Document No. OSEC-2023-007245:

Tel. No. 8920-1761

Email Address: denrlo@denr.gov.ph

Thank you!

Office of the Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



On Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 10:10 AM House Committee on Ways And Means <committee.waysandmeans@house.gov.ph> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

AGENDA

Committee on Ways and Means
November 21, 2023 (Tuesday), 9:00 A.M.
Rolando Andaya Hall

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE
- III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 05, 12 AND OCTOBER 16, 2023
- IV. AUTOMATIC REFERRALS

A. From the Committee on Economic Affairs

FIRST DELIBERATION on the **UNNUMBERED SUBSTITUTE BILL TO HOUSE BILLS NO. 69, 8669, 8708, 8720, 8816, 8893, 8971, 9050 and 9116**, entitled **"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY, PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"** authored by Reps. Benitez, Valmayor, et al.

Revenue Provisions:

Sec. 24. Inclusion in Strategic Investment Priority Plan. - x x x

Sec. 25. Blue Economic Zones. - x x x

Guests/Resource Persons:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Rep. Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Ph.D. | Author |
| 2. Rep. Gerardo P. Valmayor, Jr. | Author/Chairperson |
| | Committee on Economic Affairs |
| 3. Sec. Benjamin E. Diokno, Ph.D. | Department of Finance |
| 4. Sec. Raphael P.M. Lotilla | Department of Energy |
| 5. Sec. Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga | Department of Environment and Natural Resources |
| 6. Sec. Bienvenido Laguesma | Department of Labor and Employment |
| 7. Sec. Dr. Renato Solidum, Jr. | Department of Science and Technology |
| 8. Sec. Alfredo Pascual | Department of Trade and Industry |
| 9. Sec. Arsenio M. Balisacan | National Economic and Development Authority |
| 10. Director General Tereso O. Panga | Phil. Economic Zone Authority |
| 11. Usec. Ceferino S. Rodolfo | Board of Investments |
| 12. Asec. Juvy C. Danofrata | Fiscal Incentives Review Board |
| 13. Comr. Atty. Romeo Lumagui, Jr. | Bureau of Internal Revenue |
| 14. Exec. Dir. Marlene A. Lucero-Calubag | National Tax Research Center |

B. From the Committee on Government Reorganization

FIRST DELIBERATION on the **UNNUMBERED SUBSTITUTE BILL TO HOUSE BILLS NO. 21, 55, 144, 482, 858, 1013, 1014, 2175, 2298, 2523, 2538, 2558, 2690, 2818, 2880, 3082, 3226, 3237, 3302, 3435, 3610, 3670, 3677, 3727, 3788, 3886, 4057, 4326, 4535, 4536, 4865, 5177, 5205, 5810, 5877, 6266, 6306, 6311, 6278, 6360, 6463, and 8660**, entitled **"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE WATER REGULATORY COMMISSION, DEFINING THEIR MANDATES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,"** authored by Reps. Romualdez (FM), Romualdez (YM), Acidre, Salceda, et al.

Revenue Provisions:

- Sec. 8. Powers and Functions of the Department. - x x x
 II. Policymaking and Planning
 (e) x x x
 (f) x x x
- Sec. 14. Attached Agencies. - x x x
 (a) x x x
- Sec. 19. Functions of the Board. - x x x
 (j) x x x
- Sec. 22 Powers and Functions of the Commission. - x x x
 (f) x x x
 (g) x x x
 (t) x x x
 (n) x x x
 (gg) x x x
 (hh) x x x
- Sec. 28. Conditions of License. - x x x
 (a) x x x
- Sec. 30. Setting Tariffs, Rates, and Other Charges. - x x x

Guests/Resource Persons:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez | Author |
| 2. Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez | Author |
| 3. Rep. Jude A. Acidre | Author |
| 4. Rep. Jonathan Keith T. Flores | Chairperson, Com. on Gov't Reorganization |
| 5. Sec. Benjamin E. Diokno, Ph.D. | Department of Finance |
| 6. (OIC) National Treasurer Sharon P. Almanza | Bureau of Treasury |
| 7. Comr. Atty. Romeo Lumagui, Jr. | Bureau of Internal Revenue |
| 8. Exec. Dir. Marlene A. Lucero-Calubag | National Tax Research Center |
| 9. Administrator Engr. Leonor C. Cleofas | Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System |
| 10. Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen | National Irrigation Administration |
| 11. Administrator Atty. Vicente Homer B. Revil | Local Water Utilities Administration |
| 12. General Manager Atty. Senando A. Santiago | Laguna Lake Development Authority |
| 13. President and CEO Jose Victor Emmanuel De Dios | Manila Water Company Inc. |
| 14. President and CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez | Maynilad Water Services Inc. |

- V. CONSIDERATION of the UNNUMBERED SUBSTITUTE BILL TO HOUSE BILL NO. 8968, entitled "AN ACT ENHANCING PHILIPPINE TAX INCENTIVES POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 27, 28, 112, 292, 294, 295, 296, 297, 300, 301, 309, 310 AND 311 AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 295-A IN THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," authored by Rep. Salceda

Guests/Resource Persons:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Sec. Benjamin E. Diokno, Ph.D. | Department of Finance |
| 2. Sec. Alfredo Pascual | Department of Trade and Industry |
| 3. Director General Tereso O. Panga | Phil. Economic Zone Authority |
| 4. Usec. Ceferino S. Rodolfo | Board of Investments |
| 5. Asec. Juvy C. Danofrata | Fiscal Incentives Review Board |
| 6. Comr. Atty. Romeo Lumagui, Jr. | Bureau of Internal Revenue |
| 7. Comr. Bienvenido Y. Rubio | Bureau of Customs |
| 8. Comr. Atty. Norman G. Tansingco | Bureau of Immigration |
| 9. Exec. Dir. Marlene A. Lucero-Calubag | National Tax Research Center |
| 10. Administrator Mohammed Hussein P. Pangandaman | Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan |
| 11. President and CEO Atty. Gil G. Taway IV | Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority |
| 12. President and CEO Engr. Joshua M. Bingcang | Bases Conversion and Dev't Authority |
| 13. President and CEO Atty. Agnes VST. Devanadera | Clark Development Corporation |
| 14. Administrator and CEO Katrina Ponce Enrile | Cagayan Economic Zone Authority |
| 15. President and CEO Allan R. Garcia | John Hay Management Corporation |

16. Administrator and CEO Atty. Joseph Donato J. Bernedo
17. President and CEO Atty. Felix S. Racadio
18. Chairman Jonathan D. Tan
19. Vice-Chairman and COO Mark T. Lapid
20. Chairman and Administrator Raul M. Regondola
21. President Frank Thiel
22. President Daniel Alexander
23. Chairman William Bailey
24. President Julian Payne
25. President Paulo Jorge Duarte
26. President Dr. Cecilio K. Pedro
27. President Jacques-Christophe Branellec
28. President Hyunchong Joseph Um
29. President George T. Barcelon
30. Chairperson Christine Fajardo
31. President Shigeru Shimoda
32. President Benjamin E. Antonio III
33. President Dr. Francisco Villanueva, Jr.
34. President Sergio Ortiz Luis
35. President Danilo Lachica
36. President Jessica Reyes-Cantos
37. President and CEO Jack Madrid

PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority
 Poro Point Management Corporation
 Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
 Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority
 Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority and Freeport
 American Chamber of Commerce of the Phils.
 Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Phils.
 British Chamber of Commerce of the Phils.
 Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils.
 European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils.
 Fed. of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.
 French Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils.
 Philippine Chamber of Commerce Inc.
 Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Phils.
 Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Phils.
 Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce
 Clark Investors and Locators Association
 Phil. Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PHILEXPORT)
 Semiconductor & Electronics Ind. in the Phils. Foundation Inc.
 Action for Economic Reforms
 IT and Business Process Assoc. of the Phils.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

(in substitution of House Bill No. 69, 8669, 8708, 8720, 8816, 8893, 8971, 9050
and 9116)

By Representatives Jose Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez, Ph.D., Gerardo P. Valmayor, Jr., Christopher V.P. De Venecia, Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, John Tracy F. Cagas, Keith Micah “Atty. Mike” D.L. Tan, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Faustino “Inno” A. Dy V, Eduardo R. Rama, Gus S. Tambunting, Luis Raymund “Lray” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales, Jr., Antonio B. Legarda Jr., Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos, Wilbert T. Lee, Florida “Rida” Robes, Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Erwin T. Tulfo, Edvic G. Yap, Eric Go Yap, Mercedes K. Alvarez, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Mohamad P. Paglas, Luz V. Mercado, Roy M. Loyola, Michael B. Gorriceta, and Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY, PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Blue Economy Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to:

(a) Adopt blue economy as a framework for equitable and sustainable development and safe use of marine wealth within our Maritime Zones, as a pillar of our national economy and patrimony;

(b) Exercise stewardship of our seas and coasts, and protect and conserve the health and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats, through strong institutional mechanisms for maritime monitoring and regulatory enforcement, to promote the well-being, prosperity and security of present and future generations;

(c) Preserve our maritime heritage, recognize the social, cultural, and historical value of our seas and coasts, and foster public understanding and respect of the value of our seas and coasts to build a strong foundation for social responsibility;

(d) Enrich scientific understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems, the benefits we gain from these ecosystems (e.g. carbon sequestration), their changing conditions and the causes thereof, and use the best available scientific knowledge to inform decisions affecting our seas and coasts and to enhance our capacity to respond and adapt to changing maritime environments;

(e) Foster international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement, and exercise rights and jurisdiction in accordance with applicable international laws, including on freedom of navigation;

(f) Ensure a whole-of-nation approach and a comprehensive, integrated framework for the stewardship of our seas and coasts to facilitate cohesive action of the National Government, local authorities, academe, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the public; and

(g) Promote, support and monitor science, technology and innovation programs of public and private academic and research institutions to strengthen interdisciplinary research in marine science, and to develop emerging technologies to catalyze growth of new maritime sectors.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

(a) *Aquaculture* refers to fishery operations involving all forms of raising and culturing fish and other fishery species in fresh, brackish, and marine water areas;

(b) *Aquasilviculture* refers to a multi-purpose production system that allows production of fish and other aquatic species in a mangrove reforestation project;

(c) *Aquatic resources* refer to fish and other living resources of the aquatic environment that have or will have commercial value when utilized;

(d) *Blue economy* refers to the integrated, holistic, cross-sectoral, and cross-stakeholder approach for the sustainable, resilient and inclusive use, governance, management and conservation of oceans, seas as well as marine and coastal resources and ecosystems for economic growth, leveraging green

infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms and proactive institutional mechanisms, and improving human well-being and social equity, and reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities;

(e) *Research and development* refer to activities in improving human well-being and social equity;

(f) *Blue carbon* refers to organic carbon that is captured by marine and coastal ecosystems, such as algae, seagrass, mangroves, and other plants growing in salt marshes and coastal wetlands;

(g) *Commercial fishing* refers to the taking of fishery species by passive or active gear for trade, business and profit beyond subsistence or sports fishing, to be further classified as: small scale commercial fishing, or fishing with passive or active gear utilizing fishing vessels of 3.1 gross tons (GT) up to twenty (20) GT; medium scale commercial fishing or fishing utilizing active gears and vessels of 20.1 GT up to one hundred fifty (150) GT; and large commercial fishing or fishing utilizing active gears and vessels of more than one hundred fifty (150) GT;

(h) *Contiguous zone* refers to the contiguous zone of the Philippines to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the extent of twenty-four (24) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured;

(i) *Continental shelf* refers to the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance;

(j) *Ecosystem services* refer to the flow of benefits which humans gain from ecosystems, through biological processes and climate, hydrological and biochemical cycles, and experiences that contribute to intangible culture;

(k) *Environmental-economic accounting* refers to a systematic way to measure and report on stocks and flows of natural assets and resources – both biotic and abiotic, renewable and non-renewable – and ecosystem services, to determine the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impact of the economy on the environment;

(l) *Environmental-economic accounts* refer to statistical information, in physical or monetary terms, about the extraction of natural resources, their use within the economy, natural resource stock levels, the changes in those stocks during a specific period, and such other economic activities related to the environment;

(m) *Exclusive economic zone (EEZ)* refers to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the extent of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, as established by Presidential Decree No. 1599, otherwise known as the “Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone of 1978”, and to the extent consistent with the other provisions of this Act and with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

(n) *Fisheries* refer to all activities relating to the science and act of business of fishing, culturing, preserving, processing, marketing, developing, conserving, and managing of aquatic resources, and environment;

(o) *Integrated coastal management (ICM)* refers to a holistic and integrative management that incorporates the following components: (1) connectivity of various ecosystems – environment and resources; (2) various sectors and stakeholders; (3) institutional arrangements that are relevant; and (4) assessment of drivers of coastal ecosystem degradation, management planning and implementation, including research and education, to address coastal degradation and biodiversity losses, and to improve the well-being of communities in coastal and interconnected areas;

(p) *Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM)* refers to a participatory process for decision-making to prevent, control, or mitigate adverse impacts from human activities in the marine and coastal environment, and to contribute to the restoration of degraded coastal areas;

(q) *Internal waters* refer to waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines not forming part of archipelagic waters under section 4 of this Act and delineated in accordance with article 50 of the 1982 UNCLOS; and waters on the landward side of the baselines of the territorial sea of territories outside of the archipelagic baselines, drawn in accordance with article 8 of the UNCLOS;

(r) *Investment promotion agencies* refer to government entities created by law, executive order, decree or other issuance, in charge of promoting investments, granting and administering tax and non-tax incentives, and overseeing the operations of the different economic zones and freeports in accordance with their respective special laws. These include the Board of Investments (BOI), Regional Board of Investments-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (RBOI-ARMM), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Clark Development Corporation (CDC), John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC), Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), PHIVIDECA Industrial Authority (PIA), Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority (APECO), Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and all other similar existing authorities or that may be created by law;

(s) *Mariculture* refers to the sea farming of aquatic plants and fishes;

(t) *Marine scientific research* refers to any research activity, which is conducted for exclusively peaceful purposes, for the purpose of increasing scientific knowledge about the marine environment, including all-natural resources, toward the benefit of mankind and according to the UNCLOS;

(u) *Maritime domain awareness* refers to the effective understanding of any activity that could impact upon the security, safety, economy or environment;

(v) *Maritime spatial planning* refers to a process by which human activities in Maritime Zones are analyzed and organized, based on best available scientific knowledge, and to achieve economic, ecological and social objectives;

(w) *Maritime zones* refer to the maritime zones of the Philippines comprising the internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ, and continental shelf;

(x) *Ocean-based activities* refer to activities that are undertaken in the ocean, e.g. fisheries and aquaculture, offshore oil and gas, mining, ocean energy, desalination, shipping and marine transportation, marine tourism, marine construction;

(y) *Ocean-related activities* refer to activities that use products from the ocean (e.g., seafood processing, marine biotechnology, chemicals, salt, etc.) and produce products and services for the ocean and ocean-based activities (e.g., ship building and repair, ports, tourist resorts, communication, maritime insurance and law, maritime technical services, etc.);

(z) Subsistence fishing refers to fishing for personal consumption or traditional/ceremonial purposes;

(aa) *Ocean literacy* refers to an understanding of the ocean's influence on humans and human influence on the ocean.

SEC. 4. *Scope of Application.* – For purposes of this Act, the Philippines shall exercise sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction, in accordance with commitments under the UNCLOS and other related treaties which the Philippines has ratified, in internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, herein collectively referred to as “Maritime Zones”, including its seabed and subsoil, and any and all maritime features within the Maritime Zones and where appropriate, the relevant airspace above the territorial sea, internal waters and archipelagic waters now known or to be known in the future.

CHAPTER II