

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
19TH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



House Bill No. 10271

**Introduced by Representative
MICHAEL L. ROMERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The **1987 Constitution** mandates the State to support the nation's maritime security and stability through appropriate technology, research and development, with adequate financial, equipment and other related services.

This House bill seeks to guarantee the enhancement of our maritime forces.

Furthermore, this House bill seeks to ensure our evolving accessibility, available maritime strategies and counter measures at all times.

This house bill seeks to establish a comprehensive **Maritime Development Program**.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Romero", written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE MARITIME
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF
THE PHILIPPINES, TO FOSTER A FAST AND MASSIVE
MARITIME BUILD-UP, TO PROMOTE STABILITY AND
SECURITY IN OUR MARITIME DOMAIN,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. - This Act shall be known as the "**MARITIME DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2024**".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. The State shall recognize the importance of a strong maritime security force in ensuring the well-being of its nation.

There shall hereby be a declared policy of the state to elevate our maritime capacity to preserve and protect its citizenry, territory and boundaries.

The State recognizes that an imminent upgrade and extensive modernization is long overdue.

Furthermore, the state clearly identifies that the establishment of a comprehensive maritime development program shall vastly improve the efficiency of our nation`s maritime capabilities.

the State shall hereby provide the necessary support to fund and establish the immediate build-up of our maritime forces.

The State shall spearhead acquisition of modern and more powerful equipment's, machinery and technology to ensure the preservation and safety of its people and sovereignty. Thus to ensure the well-being of the entire nation.

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE MARITIME DEVELOPMENT PRGRAM — There shall be established a comprehensive maritime development program.

Existing structures, facilities and equipment's that would meet the standard requirements could be upgraded to effectively serve and be designated as such in compliance with rules and regulations set by the National Security Council **(NSC)**, Armed Forces of the Philippines **(AFP)** Department of National Defense **(DND)**, Philippine Coast Guard **(PCG)** and subject matter experts.

SECTION 4. SUPERVISING AND ASSESSMENT CONCERNS. — the National Security Council **(NSC)**, Armed Forces of the Philippines **(AFP)** Department of National Defense **(DND)** Philippine Coast Guard **(PCG)**, shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure the effective operations and build-up.

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY. — The National Security Council **(NSC)**, Armed Forces of the Philippines **(AFP)** Department of National Defense **(DND)** Philippine Coast Guard **(PCG)**.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. —

Within ninety **(90)** days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Security Council **(NSC)**, Armed Forces of the Philippines **(AFP)** Department of National Defense **(DND)** Philippine Coast Guard **(PCG)** shall, in consultation with other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the **IRR** or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund this act shall be charged under the **Department of National Defense**.

Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the implementation of this act shall be included in the annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**.

The agencies concerned shall provide for the continued maintenance, operation, and management of all the facilities and equipment's.

SECTION 9. CONTINUING APPROPRIATION. - The Department of Budget and Management **(DBM)** is hereby mandated to include annually in the next five **(5)** years, in the President's Program of expenditures for submission to Congress, and release, an amount not less than twenty **(20)** billion pesos **(Php 20, 000, 000, 000.00)** for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 10. PERIODIC REPORTS - The Secretary of the Department of National Defense **(DND)** shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by both Congress and Senate and the appropriate departments, in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

SECTION 11. AUTOMATIC REVIEW - Every three **(3)** years after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts

to be appointed by the **President** of the Republic shall review the policies and programs in the defense and security sector and shall make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 12. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. — If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. REPEALING CLAUSE. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVITY. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,