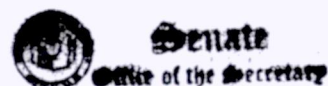
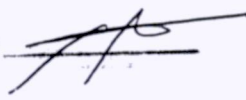


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



'19 APR -4 A11 :12

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Res. No. 1035

Introduced by Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PRESENCE OF CHINESE VESSELS IN PHILIPPINE TERRITORIES, INCLUDING THE DREDGER VESSEL IN LOBO, BATANGAS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE NECESSARY COURSE/S OF ACTION TO PROTECT PHILIPPINE INTERESTS, SOVEREIGNTY, AND LAND AND MARINE RESOURCES

WHEREAS, it has been reported in the media that a 2,990 ton hopper dredger suddenly appeared off Bgy. Lagadlarin, in the coastal town of Lobo in the province of Batangas to conduct dredging operations for a company called Seagate Engineering and Buildsystems¹;

WHEREAS, according to the Bgy. Captain Mafriel Dimaano, the 99-meter long, 17-meter wide ship docked into Lobo with no prior notice or permission from local officials, and anchored itself close to a 30-hectare mangrove forest;

WHEREAS, Lobo Mayor Jurly Mayor likewise expressed alarm about the developments, citing fears that a dike would likely collapse if the river is dredged;

WHEREAS, there is reportedly a purchase order made by a company called Synergy Plus Holdings Ltd. to Seagate for the purchase of 2 million cubic meters of Lobo River sand for \$2 per metric ton "at source" to be used for the Hong Kong International Airport Three Runway System Project;

WHEREAS, Seagate Engineering and Buildsystems was allegedly able to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Calabarzon regional office of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), but it was not able to obtain a mineral ore export permit from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Office, or a dredging permit from the office of Governor Hermilando Mandanas, governor of the province of Batangas;

WHEREAS, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo himself said that there is no agreement between the Philippines and China allowing the latter to conduct dredging operations in Philippine territory²;

WHEREAS, this comes on the heels of reports that 600 Chinese vessels are circling Pag-asa Island (Thitu Island) in the West Philippine Sea since January this year, the same type of vessels that, according to maritime experts, have been responsible for the destruction of coral reefs and other marine resources³;

¹ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1102474/chinese-manned-dredging-ship-alarms-batangas-coastal-town>

² <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2019/4/2/Chinese-dredging-vessel-Lobo-Batangas-Panelo.html>

³ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/29/19/hundreds-of-chinese-vessels-circling-pag-asa-island-military>

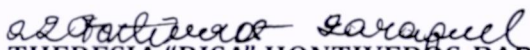
WHEREAS, Chinese vessels that are within the EEZ have also been found to be involved in acts constitutive of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;

WHEREAS, IUU fishing is considered criminal activity, and if China is abetting these acts, it may be considered a state sponsor of criminal activity as well;

WHEREAS, the conduct of China's vessels in other waters likewise does not inspire confidence in its capacity to adhere to international regulations – Chinese trawlers were caught illegally fishing off Africa and Latin America, and warnings have also been aired that increased competition over dwindling stocks of fish and illicit fishing activity inside maritime boundaries of other nations could cause geopolitical conflicts, and even a war;⁴

NOW THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PRESENCE OF CHINESE VESSELS IN PHILIPPINE TERRITORIES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE NECESSARY COURSE/S OF ACTION TO PROTECT PHILIPPINE INTERESTS, SOVEREIGNTY, AND LAND AND MARINE RESOURCES.

Adopted,


ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL

⁴ <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-warns-chinas-aggressive-fishing-boats-could-start-a-war-2019-1>