

MALACAÑANG

Manila

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1596

DECLARING CERTAIN AREA PART OF THE PHILIPPINE TERRITORY
AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

WHEREAS, by reason of their proximity the cluster of islands and islets in the South China Sea situated within the following:

KALAYAAN ISLAND GROUP

From a point on the Philippine Treaty Limits at latitude $7^{\circ}40'$ North and longitude $116^{\circ}00'$ East of Greenwich, thence due West along the parallel of $7^{\circ}40'$ N to its intersection with the meridian of longitude $112^{\circ}10'$ E, thence due north along the meridian of $112^{\circ}10'$ E to its intersection with the parallel of $9^{\circ}00'$ N, thence northeastward to the intersection of the parallel of $12^{\circ}00'$ N with the meridian of longitude $114^{\circ}30'$ E, thence, due East along the parallel of $12^{\circ}00'$ N to its intersection with the meridian of $118^{\circ}00'$ E, thence, due South along the meridian of longitude $118^{\circ}00'$ E to its intersection with the parallel of $10^{\circ}00'$ N, thence Southwestwards to the point of beginning at $7^{\circ}40'$ N, latitude and $116^{\circ}00'$ E longitude.

are vital to the security and economic survival of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, much of the above area is part of the continental margin of the Philippine archipelago;

WHEREAS, these areas do not legally belong to any state or nation but, by reason of history, indispensable need, and effective occupation and control established in accordance with international law, such areas must now be deemed to belong and subject to the sovereignty of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, while other states have laid claims to some of these areas, their claims have lapsed by abandonment and can not prevail over that of the Philippines on legal, historical, and equitable grounds.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby decree as follows:

SECTION 1. The area within the following boundaries:

KALAYAAN ISLAND GROUP

From a point \swarrow on the Philippine Treaty Limits \searrow at latitude $7^{\circ}40'$ North and longitude $116^{\circ}00'$ East of Greenwich, thence due West along the parallel of $7^{\circ}40'$ N to its intersection with the meridian of longitude $112^{\circ}10'$ E, thence due north along the meridian of $112^{\circ}10'$ E to its intersection with the parallel of $9^{\circ}00'$ N, thence northeastward to the intersection of the parallel of $12^{\circ}00'$ N with the meridian of longitude $114^{\circ}30'$ E, thence, due East along the parallel of $12^{\circ}00'$ N to its intersection with the meridian of $118^{\circ}00'$ E, thence, due South along the meridian of longitude $118^{\circ}00'$ E to its intersection with the parallel of $10^{\circ}00'$ N, thence Southwestwards to the point of beginning at $7^{\circ}40'$ N, latitude and $116^{\circ}00'$ E longitude;

including the sea-bed, sub-soil, continental margin and air space shall belong and be subject to the sovereignty of the Philippines. Such area is hereby constituted as a distinct and separate municipality of the Province of Palawan and shall be known as "Kalayaan."

SEC. 2. Pending the election of its regular officials and during the period of emergency declared in Proclamation No. 1081, and unless earlier provided by law, the administration and government of the area shall be vested in the Secretary of National Defense or in such officers of the Civil government or the Armed Forces of the Philippines as the President may designate.

SEC. 3. This Decree shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 11th day of June, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-eight.

(SGD.) FERDINAND E. MARCOS
President of the Philippines

By the President:

(SGD.) JACOBO C. CLAVE
Presidential Executive Assistant

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