

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 16

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

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**RESOLUTION**  
**COMMENDING FORMER PRESIDENT BENIGNO SIMEON**  
**“NOYNOY” AQUINO III AND OTHER PATRIOTIC FILIPINOS**  
**FOR WINNING THE ARBITRATION CASE QUESTIONING**  
**THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA’S “NINE-DASH LINE”**  
**CLAIM IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA**

**WHEREAS**, The People’s Republic of China’s “nine-dash line” claim in the South China Sea has brought tension in the area because Filipino fishermen have been prevented by China from fishing in their traditional fishing grounds and because it deprives the Philippines of almost eighty percent (80%) of its Exclusive Economic Zone extending into that area;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines, under the leadership of then President Benigno Simeon “Noynoy” Aquino III, brought a case for compulsory arbitration under the auspices of The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) against China precisely to question China’s “nine-dash line” claim in the South China Sea;

**WHEREAS**, on July 12, 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, The Netherlands, ruled on the Philippines’ case<sup>1</sup> by voiding, through a unanimous vote, China’s “nine-dash line” claim in the South China Sea;

**WHEREAS**, the ruling in the arbitration case will benefit the entire Filipino Nation, specifically our fisher folk, as well as future generations of Filipinos;

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<sup>1</sup> The South China Sea Arbitration (The Republic of the Philippines v. The People’s Republic of China).

**WHEREAS**, the ruling would not have been possible without the vision, foresight, diligence, and courage of then President Aquino III, who made the critical decision to file the arbitration case, and other patriotic Filipinos who helped out in the cause like then Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario, Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio, Supreme Court Associate Justice Francis H. Jardeleza, then Solicitor General Florin T. Hilbay, and many others;

**WHEREAS**, it is just fitting and right that the Philippine Senate should recognize the heroic efforts made by the above-mentioned personalities in achieving this historic legal victory which underscores not only the importance of arbitration as a peaceful, open, and friendly mechanism to resolve international disputes but also the Philippines's commitment to be a responsible and law-abiding member of the international community;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, TO COMMEND FORMER PRESIDENT BENIGNO SIMEON "NOYNOY" AQUINO III, FORMER FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO, SUPREME COURT SENIOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE ANTONIO T. CARPIO, SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE FRANCIS H. JARDELEZA, FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL FLORIN T. HILBAY, AND ALL THOSE INVOLVED, FOR WINNING "THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ARBITRATION CASE (THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES V. THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA)" IN THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION IN THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS.**

*Adopted,*

  
**AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III**