



Kom No.: **14**

Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF AURORA**  
BALER



*Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan*

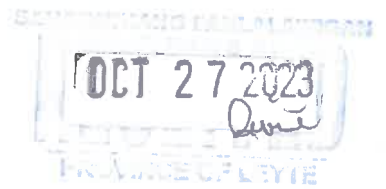
September 19, 2023

The Honorable

Sangguning Panlalawigan

Province of Leyte

Tacloban, Leyte



**Gentlemen/Mesdame:**

It is with great pleasure that I transmit to you a copy of SP Resolution No. 325, recently adopted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Aurora, entitled "**A RESOLUTION URGING ALL SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN, SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD, SANGGUNIANG BAYAN AND SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY TO EXPRESS COLLECTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT EFFORT IN PROTECTING THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA.**"

This significant resolution underscores the urgent need for collective support and solidarity among local government units in the Philippines in protecting our sovereign rights and interests in the West Philippine Sea. As we are all aware, the West Philippine Sea holds strategic importance not only for our country but also for regional peace and stability. The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Aurora recognizes the importance of unity and cooperation in addressing the challenges that our nation faces in this vital maritime area.

Enclosed, please find a copy of SP Resolution No. 325, which details the resolution's content, objectives, and the urgency of its implementation. We believe that by sharing this resolution with your esteemed office, we can encourage similar support and initiatives in your jurisdiction. We earnestly hope that you will consider adopting a resolution of a similar nature to express your unwavering commitment to the protection of the West Philippine Sea.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the possibility of our local government units standing together in support of our country's efforts to safeguard the West Philippine Sea.

Very truly yours,

BY INSTRUCTION OF THE  
SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN:

  
MARIA OLIVIA D. MAZA

OIC-Secretary to the Sanggunian



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF AURORA  
BALER



*Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan*

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 58<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF AURORA HELD AT THE SP SESSION HALL, PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, BALER, AURORA ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

PRESENT:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| HON. LORDAN B. ROXAS,          | Regular Member, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District,<br>Temporary Presiding Officer |
| HON. JESUS V. PALMERO,         | Regular Member, 1 <sup>st</sup> District                                 |
| HON. PHILIP BUTCH M. BAUTISTA, | Regular Member, 1 <sup>st</sup> District                                 |
| HON. JENNIFER A. ARAÑA,        | Regular Member, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District                                 |
| HON. LITO V. PASCUA,           | Regular Member, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District                                 |
| HON. JOVENE MIKE B. ALPUERTO,  | Ex-Officio Member, SKF President   |
| HON. DANILO M. ONG,            | Ex-Officio Member, PCL President   |
| HON. MARIA ELENA F. NICER,     | Ex-Officio Member, LnB President   |

ABSENT:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| HON. GERARDO A. NOVERAS,        | Vice-Governor (On Sick Leave)                       |
| HON. PHILIP JACOBSON A. GALBAN, | Regular Member, 1 <sup>st</sup> District (On O.B.)  |
| HON. ANNABELLE C. TANGSON-PE.,  | Regular Member, 1 <sup>st</sup> District (On O.B.)  |
| HON. REYNANTE A. TOLENTINO,     | Regular Member, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District (On Leave) |

**RESOLUTION NO. 325**

**A RESOLUTION URGING ALL SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN, SANGGUNIANG PANGLUNGSOD, SANGGUNIANG BAYAN AND SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY TO EXPRESS COLLECTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN PROTECTING THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA**

**WHEREAS**, the West Philippine Sea, a vital part of Philippine territory and an important maritime region encompassing various features and resources, is currently facing territorial disputes and incursions by foreign entities, which pose a significant threat to the sovereignty, security, and economic interests of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines has an inherent and exclusive right over the West Philippine Sea as affirmed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the 2016 ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and various international treaties and agreements;

**WHEREAS**, the preservation and protection of the West Philippine Sea are crucial for the livelihood of millions of Filipinos who rely on its marine resources for sustenance and economic activities, including fishing and trade;

**WHEREAS**, recent events have raised concerns about the presence and activities of foreign vessels and entities within the West Philippine Sea, which threaten the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, it is the solemn duty of every local government unit to support and cooperate with the national government in matters concerning national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security and to stand united behind the Philippine Government's efforts to protect the nation's interests in the West Philippine Sea;

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of the Local Government Code of the Philippines empowers local government units to participate in the formulation of policies affecting their jurisdiction and to support the national government in the pursuit of its goals and objectives;

**WHEREAS**, the Sanggunians, as local legislative bodies across the Philippines, have a responsibility to represent and protect the interests of their respective constituents and contribute to the overall well-being and security of the nation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Sanggunian Panlalawigan of the Province of Aurora hereby expresses unwavering support for the Philippine Government's peaceful and lawful actions in the defense of the West Philippine Sea, reaffirming the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of external challenges;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Sanggunian encourages all local government units within its jurisdiction to:

1. Actively promote awareness among their constituents about the significance of the West Philippine Sea to the nation's security, economy, and heritage;
2. Collaborate with national government agencies, particularly the Department of National Defense, Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Philippine Coast Guard, to enhance maritime surveillance and security efforts in the West Philippine Sea;
3. Foster cooperation with local fishermen and stakeholders engaged in marine activities to ensure their welfare and protection within the West Philippine Sea;
4. Advocate for the peaceful but urgent resolution of disputes through diplomatic means, adherence to international law, and respect for the principles of freedom of navigation and over flight;
5. Support initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Armed Forces of the Philippines particularly the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard, and other relevant agencies in safeguarding Philippine interests in the West Philippine Sea; and

6. Encourage international cooperation and partnerships that promote the responsible and sustainable management of marine resources in the West Philippine Sea.

**RESOLVED FURTHERMORE**, that this Sanggunian is calling upon its counterparts in other provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays across the country to pass similar resolutions in support of the Philippine Government's stance on the West Philippine Sea, thereby demonstrating a unified and resolute commitment to defending the nation's sovereignty and maritime interests;


**RESOLVED FINALLY**, that copies of this resolution be furnished to the President of the Philippines, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of the Department of National Defense, the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the United States of America Embassy and other relevant government agencies, as well as to all local government units, in order to rally collective support for the Philippine Government's steadfast commitment to protecting the West Philippine Sea.

**APPROVED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023 by the Sanggunian Panlalawigan of the Province of Aurora in session assembled.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** to the correctness of the foregoing Resolution.

  
**MARIA OLIVIA D. MAZA**  
OIC – SP Secretary

ATTESTED:

  
**LORDAN B. ROXAS**  
SP Member Second District  
Temporary Presiding Officer