

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Fourteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Resolution No. 536



Introduced by **HON. FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**

**DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO FORM A
WORKING GROUP TO STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINES' CLAIM TO
THE KALAYAAN ISLAND GROUP (KIG) AND OTHER
ACTIVE AND PENDING ONES**

WHEREAS, Article 1 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the Philippines national territory "comprises the Philippine archipelago, with all the islands and waters embraced therein, and all other territories over which the Philippines has sovereignty or jurisdiction;"

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1596 of 1978 declared the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG), including the seabed, subsoil, continental margin and air space as belonging and subject to the sovereignty of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG) forms part of the Spratlys, which are also claimed either in part or as a whole by five (5) other countries, namely the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, and Taiwan;

WHEREAS, at present, the Philippines occupies and administers eight (8) islands and geological features in the Spratlys; China occupies 10; Vietnam occupies 27; Malaysia occupies 4; and Taiwan occupies 1;

WHEREAS, pursuant to PD 1596, the Philippines claim to the KIG is based on the following: (1) by reason of proximity; (2) by being part of

continental margin; (3) by reason of history; (4) by discovery and effective occupation; and (5) by reason of abandonment;

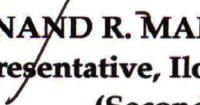
WHEREAS, some international law experts opined that the bases of the Philippines claim to the KIG are not as well grounded compared to other countries' bases for their claims;

WHEREAS, the strategic significance of the KIG vis-à-vis territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of the Philippines should be considered as paramount reasons for the Philippines to strengthen its claims to KIG;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has other active and pending claims on other territories, such as Sabah;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Department of Foreign Affairs to form a study group, which will conduct research and further studies to strengthen the Philippines claim to the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG) and others which are active and pending before various forums, local and overseas.

Adopted.


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