AN ACT
RENAMING THE BENHAM RISE AS "PHILIPPINE RISE" OR "TALAMPAS NG PILIPINAS," NAMING THE UNDERSEA FEATURES THEREIN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

On May 6, 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order No. 25 renaming Benham Rise to "Philippine Rise". The Philippine Rise is a 13-million-hectare underwater plateau, largely unexplored, and is said to be larger than Luzon with potentially rich deposits of natural gas and other resources such as heavy metals.


This bill seeks to solidify the sovereign will of the people by renaming, through legislative fiat, the Benham Rise as "Philippine Rise" or "Talampas ng Pilipinas" amidst competing maritime claims in the West Philippine Sea.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.
AN ACT
RENAMING THE BENHAM RISE AS "PHILIPPINE RISE" OR "TALAMPAS NG PILIPINAS," NAMING THE UNDERSEA FEATURES THEREIN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. In the exercise of the Philippine's inherent right to designate the names of its submarine areas, the undersea region found on the east of Luzon, which is formerly known as "Benham Rise," is hereby named as "Philippine Rise" or "Talampas ng Pilipinas."

Sec. 2. The twenty-two (22) undersea features found in Philippine Rise or Talampas ng Pilipinas shall be known as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
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<td>------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bicol Saddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>East Luzon Trough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ipil Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Location</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Isabela Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kalantas Seamount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec.</td>
<td>Name</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Palanan Seamount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Toog Seamount</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Yakal Seamount</td>
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Sec. 2. Pursuant to this Act, all official maps and charts of the Philippines to be produced and published by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) shall refer to the abovementioned undersea region as Philippine Rise or Talampas ng Pilipinas.

SEC. 3. The Philippine Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in consultation with NAMRIA and other relevant government agencies, shall deposit a copy of this Act and other relevant documents with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and notify accordingly all relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, such as the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGE), and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), among others.

SEC. 4. All departments, subdivisions, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government are hereby directed to use and employ the name Philippine Rise or Talampas ng Pilipinas in all communications, messages, and public documents, and
to popularize the use of such name with the general public, both domestically and internationally.

All departments, subdivisions, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government are enjoined to use the official Philippine maps produced and published by NAMRIA in accordance with this Act: Provided that, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall cause the distribution of said official Philippine maps to all schools, colleges, and universities, both public and private, as reference material for teaching geography and other related disciplines.

SEC. 5. All private institutions, organizations, and establishments organized under the laws of the Philippines or operating within the Philippines are hereby directed to employ the name Philippine Rise or Talampas ng Pilipinas and the names adopted in this Act for its undersea features in all communications, announcements, and messages, both domestically and internationally.

SEC. 6. Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,