

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25, May 16, 2017]

CHANGING THE NAME OF "BENHAM RISE" TO "PHILIPPINE RISE" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was signed and ratified by the Philippines on 10 December 1982 and 08 May 1984, respectively, and entered into force on 16 November 1994;

WHEREAS, the undersea feature known as the Benham Rise Region, which has an area approximately 24 million hectares in size, is located within the Philippine exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, as well as the outer limits of the continental shelf in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) issued on 12 April 2012;

WHEREAS, the Benham Rise Region is subject to the sovereign rights and jurisdiction of the Philippines pursuant to relevant provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, national legislation, the UNCLOS and applicable international law;

WHEREAS, in the exercise of its sovereign rights and jurisdiction, the Philippines has the power to designate its submarine areas with appropriate nomenclature for purposes of the national mapping system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

Section 1. Change of Name. The undersea feature presently known as "Benham Rise" in local and international maps and charts, shall henceforth be referred to as the "Philippine Rise".

Section 2. Official Maps and Charts. Official maps and charts of the Philippines that include the area referred to as "Benham Rise" in Section 1 of this Order to be produced and published by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), shall henceforth indicate the name "Philippine Rise" in lieu of the name "Benham Rise".

Section 3. Notification. The Philippine Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in consultation with NAMRIA and other relevant government agencies, shall transmit the appropriate notifications to the concerned international organizations consistent with this Order.

Section 4. Information Dissemination. All departments subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities of the Government shall henceforth use and employ the name "Philippine Rise" in all official documents in referring to the undersea feature that is the subject of this Order.