



# STATEMENT

## **NAMRIA on West Philippine Sea and Official Philippine Maps**

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) clarifies to the public the role of official Philippine maps and nautical charts in showing and protecting our maritime jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea.

Since 2012, the Philippines has formally used the name West Philippine Sea in government publications. In accordance with this policy, NAMRIA places the label consistently across its official maps and charts, including administrative maps, topographic maps, thematic maps, and nautical charts used for navigation.

These materials serve practical and technical purposes. They are reference documents used by mariners, planners, researchers, and institutions, both domestic and international, for navigation, geographic information, and safety at sea.

## **On maritime boundaries**

In light of ongoing public discussions, NAMRIA wishes to clarify the manner by which the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is represented.

Under international law, the EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles from the country's archipelagic baselines. This creates a continuous curved boundary, similar to the edge of a circle, not a polygon made of straight lines.

Because of this, a short list of coordinates would not accurately describe the maritime limit. The boundary is therefore represented through precise geospatial data derived from the archipelagic baselines defined in RA 9522, allowing navigation systems and mapping software to determine the limit correctly.

## **International standards and use**

NAMRIA's nautical charts follow international hydrographic standards and are utilized by both Philippine and foreign vessels navigating waters under Philippine jurisdiction. The charts are also submitted to relevant international technical bodies, including the International Hydrographic Organization.

Through these established technical processes, Philippine geographic information is integrated into the global maritime record and supports safe navigation and responsible maritime activity.

## **Commitment**

NAMRIA's mandate is to produce accurate and reliable geospatial information for the country. By maintaining scientifically correct maps and internationally compliant nautical charts, the agency contributes to maritime safety, environmental management, disaster preparedness, and proper documentation of national territory.

NAMRIA will continue to uphold this mandate in support of national sovereignty, maritime safety, disaster preparedness, and sound resource management.

***To download the official administrative map, please visit the NAMRIA website or follow this link:  
<https://namria.gov.ph/Downloads/AdminMap/AdminMapPH.jpg>.***