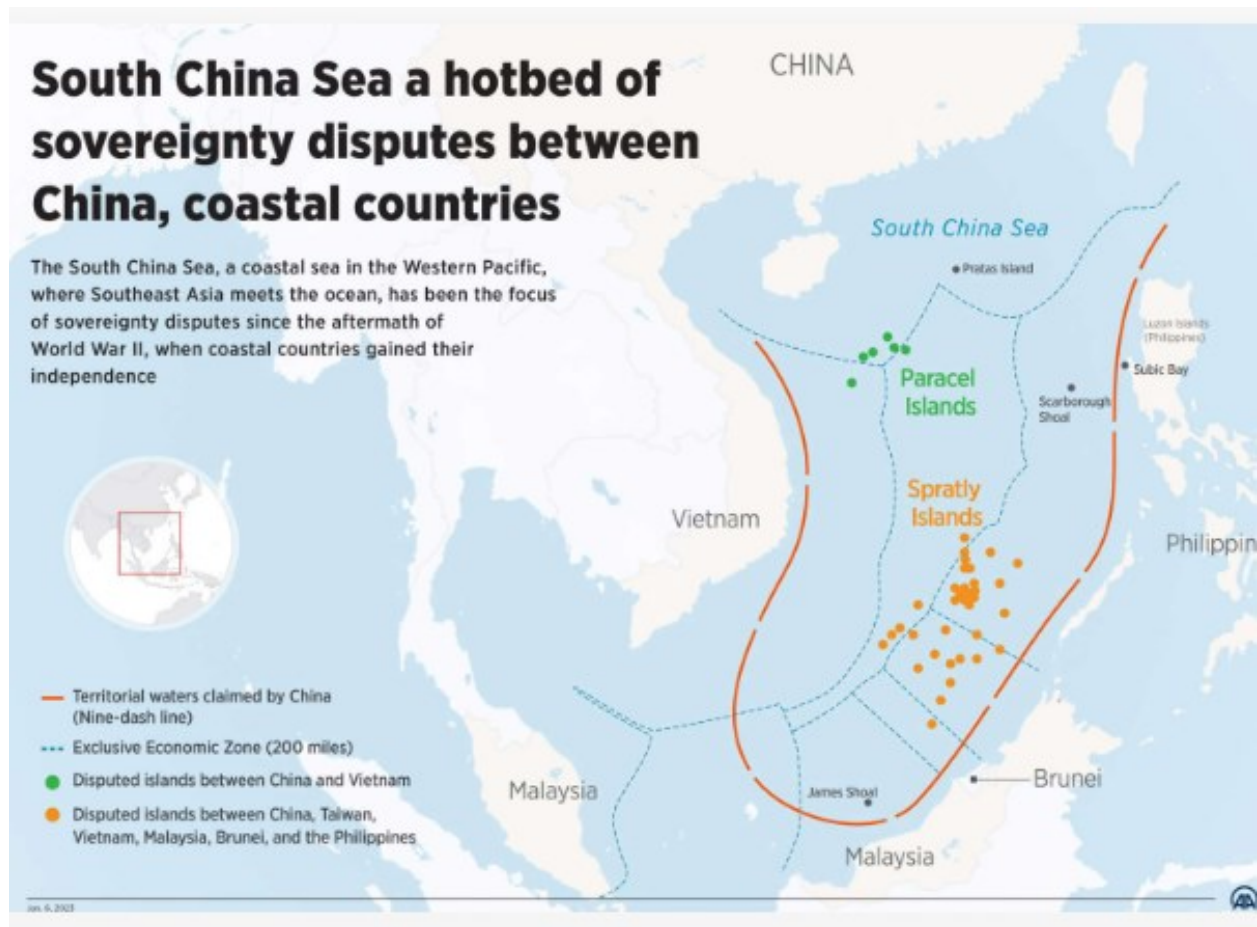


# Philippines: Security Alliances; Maria's Christmas; 21<sup>st</sup> Century Infra

December 21, 2024

December 20, 2024, Manila, Philippines: The **Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru** affirmed “the importance of sharing the principle of the rule of law and strengthening cooperation in maritime security, economic security, and enhancing connectivity, to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.”

**Ishiba Shigeru** conveyed the support of Japan to Philippines to counter the efforts of China to take over the islands and atolls in the Philippines Seas.



The MAP.1.: South China Sea, with claims by China on the resources of the entire South China Sea. Other countries claim parts of waters, close to their land according to different countries

**Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru**, in a message through **Japan's National Security Adviser Akiba Takeo** conveyed Japan's full support to Philippines for maintaining Philippines' sovereignty over its islands and atolls. **President Ferdinand R. Marcos**

Jr. on Thursday expressed optimism on the **partnership between the Philippines and Japan on defense, security and economic co-operation.**

He noted the two countries' strong cooperation on defense security, particularly in terms of sharing, interoperability, and exercises in strengthening the position of both nations in the South China Sea.

The President also noted the successful ratification of the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) on December 16, 2024.

"I'm also very happy to be able to note that the Reciprocal Access Agreement has already been ratified by our Senate. And as soon as we are all ready, we can operationalize the agreement between Japan and the Philippines," he said.



*December 20, 2024: Manila, Philippines: **President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.** conveying his response to the message from **the Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru**, being carried by **Japan's National Security Adviser Akiba Takeo**. Akiba Takeo, along with Officers of the Government of Philippines, was at the **Malacañang Palace**.*

As a Christmas present to the nation, the President announced 5 large unprecedented investments in Transportation Systems at **Cebu, Bohol, Dumaguete** and **Siargao**. (Please see pages 10-11 for detailed information about the projects.)

The RAA was signed in July 2024 to improve the interoperability between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan for more extensive practical military cooperation and exercises and bolster the security and defense of both countries.

**The agreement is Japan's first defense pact forged in Asia after WWII.**

**Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru** referred to the Japan-Philippine-US Summit Meeting in April 2024, the Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting in July 2024 and the unanimous approval of the ratification of the RAA by the Philippine Senate recently, and said, "Japan, the Philippines and the US are natural partners, being maritime nations connected by the Indo-Pacific Ocean."<sup>1</sup> In 2022, **Narendra Modi**, the **Indian Prime Minister**, had agreed to provide to **Philippines** ground-to-ship and ship-to-ship **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles**. In November 2023, the **Indian Air Force** utilized C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft to deliver the missiles to the **Philippines' Marine Corps**.



*Construction of a BrahMos missile site at*

***Philippine Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui in Zambales, Western Luzon***

From Western Luzon, Manila's new supersonic cruise missiles can hold adversaries at risk up to 290-300 Km away.

**EDITORIAL COMMENTS:** [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) learns that the military observers say that China would not be able to counter the BrahMos

*missiles. Hence the Chinese ships are likely to keep away from Philippines sea.*

December 18, 2024: **Manila, Philippines:** Convicted drug courier **Mary Jane Veloso** is now back in the Philippines after languishing for 14 years in Indonesian death row.

“We take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the **Indonesian government** and to all who have extended assistance for the welfare of Ms. Mary Jane Veloso,” said **President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.**



***Christmas Party, Manila, Philippines: President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.***

“We are pleased to announce that Ms. Mary Jane Veloso was turned over into the custody of Philippine officials in the evening of Tuesday, 17 December 2024 in **Indonesia**,” **President Marcos Jr** added.

According to the President, **Veloso arrived in the country early Wednesday, December 18, 2024**, accompanied by officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Bureau of Immigration (BI) and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor).

The government welcomed the transfer of Veloso “which was made possible by our **strong friendship and cooperation with the Indonesian government**,” said the President of **Philippines**.

December 17, 2024: **Soekarno-Hatta International Airport** in Tangerang, INDONESIA: Five Australian men of the Case of Bali Nine Drug Case<sup>2</sup> along with the Officers of the Government were at the airport at the same time when **Mary Veloso** came to the airport along with the Officers of the government of Philippines.

**Maria** came to know about the sentences awarded to the nine, who were accused in the Bali Nine Drug Case<sup>2</sup>

She, then, realized the value of intervention by the President of the Philippines, on her behalf.



*December 17, 2024: Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, INDONESIA: Press Conference:*

***Mary Jane Veloso*** gestures her happiness before her repatriation to Philippines.

*She had been sentenced to death in Indonesia.*

The President of Philippines said, "The government will ensure Veloso's safety and welfare as she continues to serve her sentence in the country. Veloso's transfer to Philippine custody spared her from execution as Philippine does not allow the death penalty."

**EDITORIAL APPEAL:** [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) appeals to **President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.** to grant her pardon. **Mary Veloso** has been saying that she did not know anything about the drugs, for carrying which she has remained in prison for 14 years. [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) is unable to conduct an investigation into the charges. However, if we were a Member of the Jury for her trial, we would have pronounced her as 'NOT GUILTY', because **every reasonable and independent person finds her stand, which she has maintained consistently for 14 years, to be plausible.**

**Mary Veloso** was working as a Maid in Philippines. She went to Indonesia for a higher salary, as many others go from Philippines to many other countries. She has suffered in an Indonesian prison, with the 'sword of sentence of death by shooting' hanging over her head.

---- A BACKGROUNDER on the FACILITIES for TRAVEL to BALI, **Indonesia** ----



*The MAP.1.: The island of Bali in Indonesia*

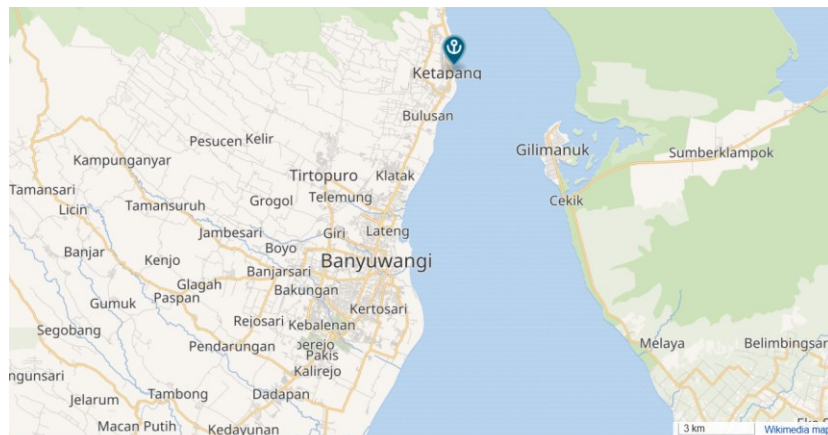
(Reference: [https://wikitravel.org/en/File:Bali\\_regions\\_map.png](https://wikitravel.org/en/File:Bali_regions_map.png))



**Gilimanuk Harbour in the island of Bali in Indonesia**

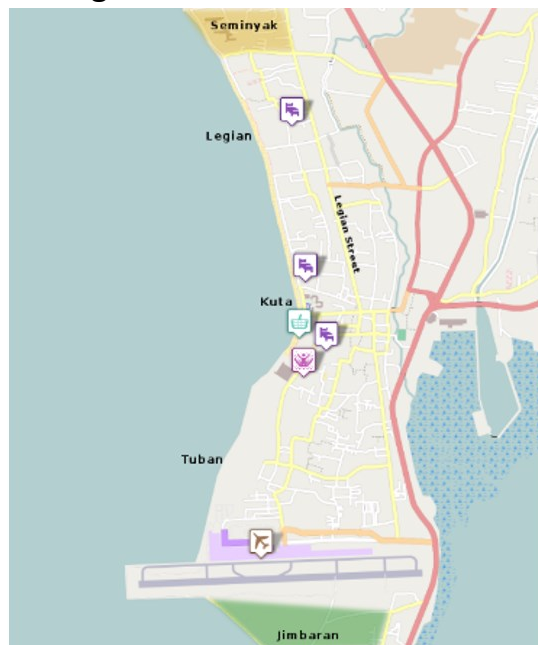
The **Ngurah Rai International Airport** is located North of Jimbaran, in both *the MAP.1., on page 5, and, the MAP.3., on page 7*. This is the only airport on the island of Bali.

In *MAP.1.*, **Gilimanuk** is a port town in West Bali. It sits on a small peninsula at the far western tip of Bali, less than 3 Km from East Java, from which it is separated by the Bali Strait.



*The MAP.2.: Gilimanuk Peninsula in the island of Bali in Indonesia*

Ferries, between ‘**Ketapang in Banyuwangi Regency, East Java**’ and ‘**Gilimanuk in Bali**’ run every 20 minutes, 24 hours a day and take about half an hour to make the crossing, although loading and unloading, in the midst of tight security against terrorism, can take much longer.



*The MAP.3.: The island of Bali in Indonesia: The **Ngurah Rai International Airport** is located North of Jimbaran, in both *the MAP.1., and, the MAP.3**

----<sup>1</sup>BACKGROUND of DEPLOYMENT of USAF's F22s in the Indo-Pacific Ocean ----

<sup>1</sup>BACKGROUND: On March 21, 2023, USAF's F22s visited **Indonesia, Brunei, and the Philippines** from August 6 to 10, 2024, following the end of the air combat exercise (titled as "Pitch Black") in Australia.

During their deployment, the F-22s conducted dynamic force employment operations, which involve rapid and unpredictable deployments to deter adversaries and reassure allies. This operational concept is designed to enhance the U.S. military's ability to respond quickly to emerging threats and maintain a strong presence in key strategic areas.

Two U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptors landed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines in a move signaling increased defense efforts between the two countries.

During the exercise, U.S. pilots from the Alaska-based 525<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron joined aviators from the Philippine Air Force's 5<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing for low-altitude flyovers, air combat maneuvering, formation training, and, with help from a KC-135 Stratotanker, air-to-air refueling over the heavily contested South China Sea.

The deployment of F-22s to the South China Sea region is significant due to ongoing maritime disputes between China and neighboring countries, including the Philippines. The presence of these advanced fighter jets serves as a demonstration of U.S. support for its allies and a commitment to maintaining stability and security in the region.

**US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and the Air Force of the Philippines** had signed an Agreement whereby USAF could use four bases of the Air Force of Philippines, though discussions still need to be conducted between the two countries on how the facilities at these bases might be improved for effective use, when needed.

----<sup>2</sup>A Brief NOTE on The CASE of BALI NINE DRUG CASE ----

The <sup>2</sup>**Bali Nine** were arrested, on 17 April 2005, with over 8.3 Kg of heroin, in plastic bags, strapped to their bodies. Five of them were caught by Indonesian police, following a tip from Australian authorities, at **Denpasar International Airport in Bali**. The remaining four were found **at a hotel on the island of Kuta**.

Kuta Beach is a 2.5-Km stretch of cream-colored sand, bordering Legian to the North and Tuban (home of the **Ngurah Rai International Airport**) to the South. This beach on Bali's South-Western coast is one of the most popular resort areas in Bali.



Kuta was once a fishing village, but became one of the first towns in Bali to see a large influx of tourists. **Kuta** is now a **major tourist destination in the Badung Regency of Bali, Indonesia** and is known for its welcoming atmosphere and variety of accommodations.

On the same evening, Chan, believed to be a Leader of the Group, was removed from an Australian Airlines flight about to depart **Ngurah Rai Airport** for Australia. Chan had several mobile phones in his possession, but was carrying no drugs when arrested.

Criminal trials for the accused commenced in the Denpasar District Court on 11 October 2005. Three of the four arrested at the Melasti Bungalows, Nguyen, Chen and Norman, were tried together, with the remaining six defendants tried separately. All defendants faced a **maximum penalty of death by firing squad if found guilty**.



***John Winston Howard** (b.: 26 July 1939), the 25<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Australia, from 11 March 1996 to 3 December 2007. He opposed the death sentence.*

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015, two of the Leaders of the drug operation were executed. After going through the tortuous process of appeals right up to the Supreme Court, in 2024, other members of the **Bali Nine** - most of whom were aged under 21 in 2005 - were handed sentences of either 20 years or life in prison.

One of the nine, **Tan Duc Thanh Nguyen**, died of cancer in prison in 2018. Shortly afterwards, **Renaë Lawrence**, then 41, the only woman among the group, had her sentence commuted after spending almost 13 years in prison and returned to Australia the same year.

Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** discussed the case of the five with the new President of Indonesia, who agreed to release them to the custody of the Australian government. The five arrived in Australia on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Indonesia did not commute the sentences of the remaining five, now aged 38 to 48, and they were transported back to Australia as prisoners. The five are banned for life from entering Indonesia.



**Anthony Norman Albanese** (b.: 2 March 1963), the 31<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister of Australia, from 23 May 2022. (Reference: <https://tinyurl.com/3deztjv>)

In Australia, there is no death sentence for anyone. One can only be imprisoned for life. However, life imprisonment, in most of the cases means a sentence of a specific number of years.

The **Australian Broadcasting Corporation** (ABC) has reported that the men might have completed the specified number of years of imprisonment for their crime and might be effectively free to live unhindered in Australian society.

---- PHILIPPINES: A BACKGROUNDER on 5 LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ----

“Let us remember: These projects are not just structures, they are representative of every Filipino’s dream of more comfortable travel, better opportunities, and a clearer path towards their goals and dreams,” said **President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.** during the ceremonial signing of the projects held at the **Malacañan Palace**.



**President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.** accords his Approval by Signing Five Infrastructure initiatives of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) for **Cebu, Bohol, Dumaguete and Siargao**

**New Cebu International Container Port (NCICP):** The President outlined the benefits of a modern port facility for alleviating congestion at the existing Cebu Port. “Once completed, this will not only make goods more affordable but will also generate thousands of jobs for our people,” the President said.  
Cost: PhP17 billion.

**Cebu Bus Rapid Transit (CBRT),** a modern bus network designed to make daily commutes easier and more comfortable for Cebu residents.

**Bohol-Panglao International Airport (BPIA):** A Public-Private Partnership project to expand the Airport. “We will expand the project in two phases: By 2026, its capacity will increase from two million to 2.5 million passengers a year. By 2030, we will reach almost four million passengers,” the President said.

BPIA is expected to generate PhP15 million in annual revenues in the 1<sup>st</sup> five years and an increase of PhP200 million annually by the end of the concession period. Cost: PhP4.53-billion.



*The MAP.4.: FIVE new Infrastructure projects*

NEW AIRPORTS in DUMAGUETE and SIARGAO: “New **Dumaguete Airport** will create more opportunities for students, for workers, and businesses while the New **Siargao Airport** will help support tourism and trade. These projects shall allow our farmers to efficiently bring produce to new markets, tourists to discover more of the charms of these islands, and entrepreneurs to expand their businesses,” President Marcos said. With the support of the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the President assured, the airports would meet global standards.

---- Philippines: **Baguio**: The Summer Capital ----

The **City of Baguio** is a highly urbanized city in the **Cordillera Administrative Region**, Philippines. It is known as the "**Summer Capital of the Philippines**", owing to its cool climate since the city is located approximately 4,810 feet (1,470 m) above mean sea level, in the **Luzon tropical pine forests ecoregion**, which also makes it conducive for the growth of mossy plants, orchids and pine trees, to which it attributes its other moniker as the "**City of Pines**".

Baguio was established as a hill station by the United States in 1900 at the site of an Ibaloi village known as Kafagway. It was the United States' only hill station in Asia.



*The MAP.5.: Baguio City, the Summer Resort of the Philippines*

Baguio is classified as a highly urbanized city (HUC). It is the largest city in Benguet, serving as the provincial capital from 1901 to 1916, but has since been administered independently from the province following its conversion into a chartered city. Baguio is geographically located within **the province of Benguet** by the Philippine Statistics Authority for its geographical and statistical purposes only. The city is the center of business, commerce, and education in northern Luzon, as

well as the most populous and seat of government of the **Cordillera Administrative Region**. Population of Baguio (Census 2020): 366,358.

---- A BACKGROUNDER on the ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE of Philippines ----



The MAP.6.: The Administrative Regions of the Philippines

(Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions\\_of\\_the\\_Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_the_Philippines))

Please note the AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO located at the South-Central part of the MAP.6.

The Cibu City is located in the WESTERN VISAYAS REGION at about Km above the AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.

The Philippines is divided into four levels of administrative divisions, with the lower three being defined in the Local Government Code of 1991 as **Local Government Units** (LGUs):

1. Regions (Filipino: rehiyon) are mostly used to organize national services. Of the 17 regions, only one—the **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region** in Muslim Mindanao—has an elected government to which the Federal Government has devolved POWERS, WHICH NO OTHER REGIONAL Authority has.
2. [Provinces](#) (Filipino: *lalawigan* or *probinsya*), [independent cities](#) (Filipino: *malayang lungsod* or *siyudad*), and one independent municipality ([Pateros](#))
3. [Component cities](#) (Filipino: *nakapaloob na lungsod* or *siyudad*) and [municipalities](#) (Filipino: *bayan* or *munisipalidad*) within a province
4. [Barangays](#) (formerly known and sometimes still referred to as *barrios*) within a city or municipality

Other divisions also exist for specific purposes, such as:

- [Geographic island groups](#) in popular and widespread use;
- Local administrative districts in use by some local governments;
- Judicial regions for [regional trial courts](#);
- [Legislative districts](#) for the election of legislators at national, regional, and local levels;
- A [special geographic area](#) used for the organization of Bangsamoro barangays in Cotabato; and
- Special-purpose districts for various government agencies.

#### ---- The Philippines: Three Groups of ISLANDS ----

The Philippines is broadly divided into three traditional island groups: **Luzon**, the **Visayas**, and **Mindanao**. The Philippine flag's three stars are often taken to represent each of these geographical groupings.

These **Island Groups**, however, have no specific administrative bodies, either elected or appointed, although many agencies and institutions, both government and private, use **Island Groups** for certain purposes. For example, the **Palarong Pambansa** rotates yearly hosting duties among the **Island Groups**, while the

**'League of Municipalities of the Philippines'** organizes its members and meetings by Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao "clusters."



The MAP .7.: The traditional **Island Groups** of **Luzon** (MANILA), the **Visayas** (CEBU), and **Mindanao** (DAVAO), with the largest city in each respective area.

---- The Philippines: **Palarong Pambansa**, ANNUAL YOUTH SPORTS FESTIVAL ----  
The **Palarong Pambansa** (Filipino for "**National Games**") is an annual multi-sport event involving student-athletes from 17 regions of the Philippines. The event, **started in 1948**, is organized and governed by the Department of Education.

Student-athletes from public and private schools at elementary and secondary levels can compete, provided they **qualified by winning at their regional meet**. For young Filipino student-athletes, Palarong Pambansa is the culmination of school sports competition, which start with local school intramurals, followed by the congressional district, provincial and regional athletic meets.

The **objectives** of the Palaro include:

- a) Widen the base for talent identification, selection, recruitment, training and exposure of elementary pupils and secondary students to serve as a feeder to the **National Sports Association (NSA)** for international competitions; and
- b) Provide a database for a valid and universal basis to further improve the school sports development programs.





The MAP .8.: The Administrative Regions, in color

---- SUMMARY and DATA: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE of PHILIPPINES ----

Four levels: Regions, Provinces, Municipalities or Cities, and Barangays.

#	Type	Chief executive	Legislative body	Number
	Autonomous regions Bangsamoro Muslim (in the MAP.6. and .8.)	<b>Chief Minister;</b> a ceremonial head, called the <b>Wa'li</b> .	Bangsamoro- Parliament	1
	Administrative regions			16
1	Provinces	Governor	Sangguniang Panlalawigan Provincial Board	81
2	Cities and municipalities	Mayor	Sangguniang Panlungsod City Council	146
			Sangguniang Bayan Municipal Council	1,488
3	Barangays	Barangay Captain	Sangguniang Barangay Barangay Council	42,046

NOTE: 1. Regions: Of the 17 regions, only one—the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao—has an elected government to which the central government has devolved special powers.

2. Provinces: independent cities (Filipino: *malayang lungsod* or *siyudad*), and one independent municipality (Pateros)

As of June 30, 2024, there is one independent municipality in the Philippines: Pateros, which is in the National Capital Region (NCR).

3. The Philippines has 1,493 municipalities in total. **Municipalities are local government units that are always under the jurisdiction of a province, with the exception of Pateros.** The term "municipality" is the official local equivalent of the term "town".

Cities in the Philippines are classified into three categories: highly urbanized cities (HUC), independent component cities (ICC), and component cities.

- I. HUC: A HUC has a minimum population of 200,000 and an annual income of at least ₱50 million. HUCs are autonomous from provinces and do not vote for provincial officials.
- II. ICC: An ICC is not under provincial jurisdiction, but is not yet a HUC. ICCs are independent in their operations, and some are allowed to participate in the election of provincial officials.
- III. Component cities are under the jurisdiction of a province and are subject to provincial supervision.

The Philippines also has 38 **independent cities**, which are not under the jurisdiction of any province. These cities **are autonomously governed and are classified as either highly urbanized (33) or independent component (5) cities.**

As of December 2024, there are 38 independent cities in the Philippines, which are categorized as either "Highly urbanized" or "Independent component" cities. About 16 of them are in the Metro Manila, also known as the **National Capital Region (NCR)**. Metro Manila is the most populated region in the Philippines and the seat of government.

Some independent cities still serve as the seat of government for the province in which they are geographically located: **Bacolod** (Negros Occidental), **Cagayan de Oro** (Misamis Oriental), **Cebu City** (Cebu), **Iloilo City** (Iloilo), **Lucena** (Quezon), **Puerto Princesa** (Palawan) and **Tacloban** (Leyte).

As of July 8, 2023, there are 149 cities in the Philippines. Carmona in Cavite is the newest city, after the plebiscite held resulted in approval of ratification on July 8, 2023. (Reference: <https://tinyurl.com/ywxfv8dv>).

A List of all the cities in the Philippines is available at

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_cities\\_and\\_municipalities\\_in\\_the\\_Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_and_municipalities_in_the_Philippines) .

NOTE 2: The lower three - **Provinces, Municipalities** or **Cities**, and **Barangays**, are defined in the Local Government Code of 1991 as **Local Government Units (LGUs)**.

Provinces (Filipino: lalawigan or probinsya), independent cities (Filipino: malayang lungsod or siyudad), and one independent municipality (Pateros)

Component cities (Filipino: nakapaloob na lungsod or siyudad) and municipalities (Filipino: bayan or munisipalidad) within a province

Barangays (formerly known and sometimes still referred to as barrios) within a city or municipality

---- A NOTE on the HISTORY of the LAW of the SEA ----

(Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Convention\\_on\\_the\\_Law\\_of\\_the\\_Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Convention_on_the_Law_of_the_Sea))

1. The "**cannon shot**" rule or "**three mile**" limit, developed by the **Dutch jurist Cornelius van Bynkershoek**: From the 17<sup>th</sup> century CE, A COUNTRY'S United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea replaces the older "freedom of the seas" concept, dating from the 17th century. According to this concept, **national rights were limited to a specified belt of water extending from a nation's coastlines, usually 3 nautical miles (5.6 Km; 3.5 mi)**. All waters beyond national boundaries were considered international waters: free to all nations, but belonging to none of them.

2. In the early 20th century, some nations expressed their desire to extend national claims: to include mineral resources, to protect fish stocks, and to provide the means to enforce pollution controls. **The League of Nations called a 1930 conference at The Hague**, but no agreements resulted.

3. UNCLOS I: In 1958, the United Nations held its first Conference on the Law of the Sea at Geneva, Switzerland. The result was 4 Treaties:
  - a. Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, entry into force: 10 September 1964

- b. Convention on the Continental Shelf, entry into force: 10 June 1964
- c. Convention on the High Seas, entry into force: 30 September 1962
- d. Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas, entry into force: 20 March 1966

However, UNCLOS I left open the important issue of breadth of territorial waters.

*EDITORIAL COMMENT: [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) notes that technology had moved ahead and many countries were extracting oil and gas from the seas, near their coast.*

*Technologies for extracting minerals, which were valuable, from the seas, near the coastline, are being developed.*

*Portugal, which had led the world during the period of the Age of Discovery during the 15<sup>th</sup> century CE, had provided a yeo man's service to shipping vessels of the world, by mapping the seas and by identifying the dangerous regions, where a ship could run aground on a raised sea-shelf. Portugal had erected signs or lighthouses to warn the ships about such areas. In all the five oceans, Portugal owns a large number of islands, many of them uninhabited.*

UNCLOS II: Experts, from all over the world, have classified the Laws of the Seas for five different marine zones as follows:

- i- Internal Waters,
- ii- Territorial Sea,
- iii- Contiguous Zone,
- iv- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and
- v- High Seas.

In general, UNCLOS II states:

*“An “exclusive economic zone,” or “EEZ” is an area of the ocean, generally extending 200 nautical miles (230 miles) beyond a nation's territorial sea, within which a coastal nation has jurisdiction over both living and nonliving resources.”*

As of October 2024, 169 sovereign states and the European Union are parties to UNCLOS II.

However, many countries have yet to ratify UNCLOS II. The most important country, which has not yet signed it is United States of America. USA leads the world in development of technologies for exploiting valuable minerals from the sea bed.

A **demonym** is a word that identifies a group of people in relation to a particular place. Examples: **Tunisian** for a person from *Tunisia*; and **Swahili**, for a person of the *Swahili coast*.

\*\*\*\*\*