

EFFECTS OF THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION ON SABAH TO THE PHILIPPINES AND MALAYSIA RELATIONS FROM 2010 TO 2020

DAMPAK REKLAMASI FILIPINA DI SABAH TERHADAP HUBUNGAN FILIPINA DAN MALAYSIA TAHUN 2010 SAMPAI 2020

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to identify the knowing and understanding towards the Republic of the Philippines reclamation on the Sabah. The study was undertaken by to investigate the perceived effects on the issue of the Philippines' Reclamation on Sabah to the Philippine-Malaysia relations. The study attempted to answer the following questions: (1) perceive the effect of the Philippine reclamation on Sabah to the Philippines-Malaysia bilateral relations? (2) the Philippine reclamation on Sabah and its economic repercussions? (3) the Philippine reclamation on Sabah and its Political repercussions? To analyze the data, the researcher used an exploratory-evaluative research design that combined quantitative and quantitative descriptive approaches. In addition, a qualitative method was used, with qualitative data derived through the examination of the responses to the questionnaire sent to the respondents and interviews with the study's Key Informants. The study also utilized one hundred (100) student-respondents from the Department of International Relations, Department of Political Science, Department of History, and Department of Economics from Mindanao State University – Main Campus during the Academic Year 2021-2022. The methods of analysis used are Statistical Treatment. The following statistical tools will be used to analyze and interpret the data of the study and Frequency and Percentage Distribution is used for the tabulating and analyzing the respondents' age, sex/gender, course, and year level. Based on the data gathered, the study shows that the effects of the Philippine reclamation on Sabah and its effects to the Philippines-Malaysia relations. In line with the statement of the problem of the study, the researchers found out from the results that the responses average weighted mean in Part II is 2.24 and on Part III is 2.34 both having a verbal interpretation of *undecided*, and the respondents perceived that negative repercussions on reclamation of the Philippines on Sabah and the reclamation will only increase the abnormal ties and tension between Malaysia and the Philippines. There's a need of extension agent in the community by means of education to more understand and know what implications and effects that the Philippine reclamation Sabah has for both the Philippines and Malaysia, and the world.

Keywords: RP - Malaysia Bilateral Dealings, Philippines claim on North Borneo, Repercussions, North Borneo Disputes

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pengetahuan dan pemahaman terhadap reklamasi Republik Filipina di Sabah. Kajian ini dilakukan untuk mengetahui dampak yang dirasakan dari isu Reklamasi Filipina di Sabah terhadap hubungan Filipina-Malaysia. Penelitian ini berusaha menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan berikut: (1) melihat dampak reklamasi Filipina di Sabah terhadap hubungan bilateral Filipina-Malaysia? (2) reklamasi Sabah oleh Filipina dan dampak ekonominya? (3) reklamasi Sabah oleh Filipina dan dampak politiknya? Untuk menganalisis data, peneliti menggunakan desain penelitian eksploratif-evaluatif yang memadukan

pendekatan deskriptif kuantitatif dan kuantitatif. Selain itu, metode yang digunakan adalah kualitatif, dimana data kualitatif diperoleh melalui pemeriksaan tanggapan kuesioner yang dikirimkan kepada responden dan wawancara dengan Key Informan penelitian. Penelitian ini juga memanfaatkan seratus (100) mahasiswa-responden dari Departemen Hubungan Internasional, Departemen Ilmu Politik, Departemen Sejarah, dan Departemen Ekonomi dari Mindanao State University – Kampus Utama selama Tahun Akademik 2021-2022. Metode analisis yang digunakan adalah Statistical Treatment. Alat statistik berikut akan digunakan untuk menganalisis dan menafsirkan data penelitian dan Distribusi Frekuensi dan Persentase digunakan untuk membuat tabulasi dan menganalisis usia, jenis kelamin/gender, kursus, dan tingkat tahun responden. Berdasarkan data yang dikumpulkan, penelitian menunjukkan dampak reklamasi Filipina di Sabah dan dampaknya terhadap hubungan Filipina-Malaysia. Sejalan dengan rumusan masalah penelitian, peneliti menemukan dari hasil bahwa rata-rata tertimbang tanggapan pada Bagian II adalah 2,24 dan pada Bagian III adalah 2,34 keduanya mempunyai interpretasi verbal ragu-ragu, dan responden mempersepsikan negatif. dampak reklamasi Filipina di Sabah dan reklamasi hanya akan meningkatkan hubungan dan ketegangan yang tidak normal antara Malaysia dan Filipina. Diperlukan adanya penyuluh di masyarakat melalui pendidikan untuk lebih memahami dan mengetahui apa implikasi dan dampak reklamasi Sabah di Filipina baik bagi Filipina, Malaysia, dan dunia.

Kata Kunci: RP - Kesepakatan Bilateral Malaysia, Klaim Filipina atas Kalimantan Utara, Dampak, Sengketa Kalimantan Utara

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INTRODUCTION

The Philippines' claim to one of Malaysia's 13 states has triggered a diplomatic conflict between the two neighbors. Sabah's territorial authority is an unpleasant issue in Malaysia-Philippines ties. Malaysia and the Philippines claim a huge section of Sabah's east as North Borneo. The Philippines' claim on one of Malaysia's 13 states has sparked a diplomatic dispute between the two allies.

The Philippines' Claim was more into the historical side and started when the Sultanate of Sulu ruled Sabah until 1963, when Malaya federated Malaysia. In return for his assistance in putting down a rebellion in Brunei, the Sultan of Brunei granted it to the Sultan of Sulu. Sulu Sultan Salah-ud-Din Karamat Bakhtiar received the northeastern coast of Borneo (Sabah) from Brunei Sultan Abdul Hakkul Mubin in exchange for his assistance in a civil war with Pengiran Bongsu Muhyuddin. (Samad & Bakar, 1992)

Michael Leifer performed a thorough examination into the Philippines' claim to the Sabah region for his 1968 book, "The Philippine Claim to Sabah." Ridiyah Abd The

political and security ramifications of the Sabah issue have been discussed by Samad and Darusalam Abu Bakar (1992) in light of the various concerns that have developed between Malaysia and the Philippines. These problems include the South's Moro secessionist movement, Malaysia's intrusion into Philippine territorial waters, and Sabah's problem with Filipino refugees and unauthorized immigration. According to Samad and Bakar, "Muslim resistance in the southern Philippines," "the political interests of existing and former leaders," and "deterioration of the country's political and economic performance" are the main reasons why the Philippines is unlikely to give up its claim to Sabah (1992: 555). The Philippine claim, on the other hand, is weak, according to S. Jayaratnam, who advocates Malaysia's stance in this matter, because "neither the Philippines nor the descendants of the Sultan have exercised sovereignty or been in effective occupation of Sabah since 1878." In this case, Jayaratnam defended the Malaysian side (1969: 10).

Under the direction of Diosdado Macapagal, the Philippines' president at the time, Sabah was officially claimed by the

Philippines in 1962. The claim was communicated to the former owner of the territory, the United Kingdom (Anand, 1981). Because it rejected the Philippines' position and transferred Sabah from the Federal Republic of Malaysia to Malaysia to purportedly contain communism in Southeast Asia, the United Kingdom became engaged in the war (Samad & Bakar, 1992). The integration of Sabah (North Borneo) into the Federation of Malaysia "would not impact either the Philippine claim or any right thereunder," Malaysia's foreign ministers, Indonesia's, and the Philippines agreed in 1963. (Samad & Bakar, 1992: 557). Later, in Manila, the declaration was approved by the leaders of three countries. However, the Philippines refused to diplomatically accept Malaysia's control of Sabah, in contrast to the declaration made in Manila. The bilateral ties between the two parties deteriorated during succeeding administrations, and eventually it was necessary to break diplomatic relations. In 1976, President Marcos attempted to improve relations between the two countries by declaring that the Philippines would not pursue its claim to Sabah. However, this assertion did not receive any official support. The Aquino administration did not declare an official policy to dismiss the claim until 1987. However, despite the efforts of the Aquino, Ramos, and Arroyo governments, this did not occur (de Castro, 2010). The 1986 action taken by the Aquino administration to dismiss the claim through a resolution was a positive step toward resolving the issue and enhancing relations. Malaysia responded positively to the gesture by accommodating Philippine interests by finalizing many deals. Although both administrations were enthusiastic about the future of bilateral relations and cooperation, the idea could not be implemented due to Senate Bill 206's rejection of withdrawing Sabah from Philippine territory (Tuban, 1994). Since quite some time, the Philippines has been dealing with a number of internal challenges. It has a long history of conflict with armed factions, including as Muslim separatists, communists, and criminal gangs. In relation to

the Philippines, Malaysia is in a win-win situation. The bounty of Sabah and the nearby oceans has benefited Malaysia. However, the Philippines would suffer additional losses as a result of the opportunities lost due to a lack of understanding, so maintaining the status quo in Sabah would not benefit the Philippines in any way.

The Philippines has experienced numerous internal issues for a very long period. It has a long history of conflict with armed factions like communists, gangs, and Muslim separatists. The Philippines was convinced by Malaysia to give up its claim to disputed territory. Because of how much Malaysia has benefited from the Philippines' ineffective leadership, she has asked them to build a consulate in North Borneo. Because of Malaysia's robust economy and management, the people of Sabah prefer its position to that of the Philippines.

Other issues have strained Malaysia and the Philippines' relationship. Sabah's proximity to the Philippines' border is essential to their security. Moro separatists have been able to achieve independence and self-determination because to Malaysian and other Muslim support (Buendia, 2005). Philippines separatists have fought for decades. Since 1969, multiple guerilla fights have occurred. The issue has gotten worse as a result of the influx of illegal immigrants and Filipino refugees into Sabah. There is proof that Sabah belongs to Malaysia and the Philippines equally. Since many years ago and up until the present, Sabah has been the subject of debate. Thus, the purpose of this research study was to provide a subtle investigation and assay on the Philippine Reclamation on Sabah and its effects to its bilateral relations to Malaysia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To analyze the data, the researcher used an exploratory-evaluative research design that combined quantitative and qualitative descriptive approaches. In addition, a qualitative method was used, with qualitative data derived through the examination of the

responses to the questionnaire sent to the respondents and interviews with the study's Key Informants. The study utilized one hundred (100) student-respondents from the Department of International Relations, Department of Political Science, Department of History, and Department of Economics from Mindanao State University – Main Campus during the Academic Year 2021-2022. The methods of analysis used are Statistical Treatment. The following statistical tools will be used to analyze and interpret the data of the study and Frequency and Percentage Distribution is used for tabulating and analyzing the respondents' age, sex/gender, course, and year level.

The primary data needed to answer the statement of the problem, the researcher used a self-made survey questionnaire and interview guide or interview protocol which were validated by the panel of experts. The questionnaire was in the form of a checklist on a Likert scale.

Protocol was followed by writing a letter to the different ministers and the targeted respondents requesting them to allow the researcher to conduct the study in their respective offices. The same protocol was done for the respondents and key informants asking for their consent to take part in the study as respondents. A letter of Consent was attached to the letter so that the respondents would know the purpose of the study.

With the corresponding qualitative frequency and percentage distribution and the weighted mean:

<u>Range</u>	<u>Part II</u>	<u>Part III</u>
2.36 – 3.00	Agree	Agree
1.68 – 2.35	Undecided	Undecided
1.00 – 1.67	Disagree	Disagree

Statistical Treatment. The following statistical tools will be used to analyze and interpret the data of the study.

Frequency and Percentage Distribution. This is used for tabulating and analyzing the respondents' age, sex/gender, course, and year level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Identification of Respondents

Table 1. presents the Respondents' age.

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
18 years old	6	6%
19 years old	17	17%
20 years old	24	24%
21 years old	18	18%
22 years old	25	25%
23 years old	8	8%
24 years old	2	2%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 1 shows that most of the respondents are 19-22 years old consisting of more than 80% of the total number of the sample. Minority of the distribution are respondents whose ages are 18 years old (6%), 23 years old (8%), and 24 years old (2%). Data gathered shows that more than 84% of students participated aged consisting of 19-22 years old while 18 years old, 23 years old, and 24 years old are the minority of the distribution consisting only 18% of the total number of the sample.

Table 2. displays the respondents' sex

SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Male	34	34%
Female	66	66%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 2 displays the respondents' sex. Based on the table 2, the number of Females (66%) is twice the number of Male respondents (34%).

As displayed in table 2, female students are the majority who participated in the survey with 66 or 66% of the total number of respondents, while Male students had the lowest number with only 34 or 34% out of the total number of respondents.

Table 3. demonstrates the 100 students at Mindanao State University Main-campus Marawi City who participated in the survey according to their year level.

COURSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
BS – Economics	25	25%
AB – History	25	25%
BS – International Relations	25	25%
AB – Political Science	25	25%
TOTAL	100	100%

As demonstrated in Table 3, Out of 100 students who participated in the survey, 25 or 25% of them are from the Economics Department. Also, 25 or 25% of the respondents are from the History Department and 25 or 25% out of 100 respondents are from the Department of International Relations. Another 25 or 25% out of 100 respondents are from the Department of Political Science. Furthermore, As demonstrated in Table 3, 25 or 25% of the respondents come from each of the four courses which are the BS – Economics from the Department of Economics, AB History from the Department of History, BS International Relations from the Department of International Relations, and lastly AB Political Science from the Political Science Department. These courses comprise the 100 students who participated in the survey of this study.

Table 4. illustrates the respondents' year level.

Year Level	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
First Year	16	16%
Second Year	33	33%
Third Year	34	34%
Fourth Year	17	17%
TOTAL	100	100%

Based on table 4, the majority of the respondents are Second Year and Third Year, consisting of 67% of the total distribution. First-year and fourth-year students are the minority of the respondents consisting of 33% of the total distribution.

Perceptions on the Philippine reclamation on Sabah and its economic repercussions

Furthermore, the researchers collected the perceptions of the respondents regarding the

Effects of the Philippine reclamation on Sabah to the Philippines – Malaysia Relations and its economic repercussions from 2010 to 2020. From the 100 respondents that participated, the results and findings are as shown.

Table 5. highlighted the perceptions of the respondents regarding the Philippine reclamation on Sabah and its economic repercussions.

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
9. Given that Sabah contains resources that can meet the Philippines' energy needs, this reclamation is a crucial step to provide for the countries' energy consumption.	1.98	Undecided	1
8. The reclamation of the Philippines on Sabah only would worsen its economic standing due to the West Philippine Sea conflict with China.	2.02	Undecided	2
10. Because the reclamation is seen by Malaysia as a hostile operation, this would weaken the economic ties of the Philippines and Malaysia	2.08	Undecided	3
4. The Philippines' reclamation on Sabah is a necessary policy to implement in order to address its economic problems, which could or would exacerbate Malaysia's economic issues.	2.09	Undecided	4
3. The Philippines is reclaiming Sabah in order to bring its economy in line with that of developed nations.	2.15	Undecided	5
2. If reclaimed, would this boost the economy the Philippines?	2.16	Undecided	6
7. If this dispute continues, this would negatively affect Philippines' spending to its social and community development and this would leave poor Filipino families to suffer in the years to come.	2.18	Undecided	7
5. Sabah's promising resources are being reclaimed by the Philippines so they can have the power they need to continue to prosper.	2.2	Undecided	2
6. If this dispute continues, this would negatively affect Philippines' spending to its military having a cheap military position among ASEAN region.	2.27	Undecided	9
1. The Philippine reclamation on Sabah is motivated by economic factors given that Sabah has oil wells, access to natural resources, offers potential for ecotourism, and has an export-oriented economy.	2.28	Undecided	10
TOTAL AVERAGE WEIGHTED MEAN	2.14	Undecided	

Legend: Disagree 1.00 – 1.67, Undecided 1.68 – 2.35, Agree 2.36 – 3.00

Table 5 reveals the weighted mean are used to describe the data. Data revealed that all respondents answered *Undecided* in all statements with an overall weighted average of 2.14 ($N = 100$). Table 5 also reveals that all the respondents are undecided in this matter, this means that the respondents are not sure as to how the resources in Sabah could help the energy needs of the Philippines.

According to the Oil & Gas Journal (OGJ) (2017), Malaysia held the fourth-highest proven oil reserves in Asia-Pacific as of January 2017, with 3,6 billion barrels. In a report from Statista Research Department (2022), As of the end of 2018, Sabah in Malaysia had approximately 1.64 billion barrels worth of crude oil and condensate reserves left. In total, the production of fuel oil in Malaysia amounted to 2.06 million metric tons.

With significant offshore oil and gas deposits, Sabah has long been an integral part of Malaysia's hydrocarbons industry – a major driver of the national economy where oil and gas have contributed significantly to Sabah's state revenues. Sabah continues to be profitable, with new discoveries occurring as recently as the present.

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According to the Land Portal (2020) in an article entitled *Will Sabahans Choose Malaysia or Philippines?*, this is evidenced by the lengthy letter written by Macapagal to the late President Kennedy on 20 April, 1963, in which he stated: "North Borneo (Sabah) as part of the Philippine territory is vital to the security of the Philippines. The Philippines is like an inverted bottle with the Sulu Sea as the open end in the south and North Borneo as the cork. Sabah's natural riches and the waters that surround it provide Malaysia with a plethora of benefits, which the country has reaped over and over again. Also, the islands of Sabah are some of the most appealing tourist hubs, which provide a significant amount to the coffers of Malaysia. This makes Sabah an even more vital state for the country of Malaysia.

In a similar vein, Sabah is abundant not just in natural resources, but also in petroleum and natural gas, lumber, and palm oil, in addition to its natural resource wealth. It is simple to see why Malaysia has such a difficult time ceding control of Sabah to the Philippines given the above information.

The overall data mean is 2.14, Data revealed that all respondents answered *Agree* in all statements resulting in the overall data as *Agree*. Furthermore, with an overall data result of *Agree* the perception towards the Philippine reclamation in Sabah is believed to be of economic interest towards prosperity of the Philippine economy on the other hand may jeopardize its economic ties and diplomatic relations with Malaysia.

In this survey, the Philippine reclamation over Sabah is an offensive act against Malaysia but a defensive policy to co-survive with the developed states. The reclamation is an offensive policy for the Philippines as it is projected under the standard of the Philippines' national interest

to survive the existing competition in the international arena.

One of the accepted tenets of international relations is bilateralism. Economic, social, political, and cultural ties between two independent governments are all part of bilateralism. A source of an agreement to establish diplomatic relations with the exchange of diplomatic representatives known as ambassadors is the acknowledgement of the sovereignty of states by one another (Elias & Sutch, 2007).

The normative view that dealings between the two countries on the vast majority of issues should primarily be handled through one-to-one governmental links is an essential element of bilateralism, according to Pempel (2004), who defines it as "two countries... [that cede] particular privileges to one another that they do not give to other countries." Both countries' policymakers concur with this opinion.

Executive Director Acram E. Latiph, Ph.D. of the Institute of Peace and Development in Mindanao and an Economist stated that the Philippine reclamation on Sabah will always have effects not only from an economic perspective but also the multi dynamics of the relationship of the Republic of the Philippines and Malaysia, especially from, every time the Philippine government raises this issue in multilateral meetings of states. However, the two states will always find ways to compromise in the sense that the Malaysian government is always around to help the Philippine government in its issues with the Moro people in Mindanao. He further stated that economically, Sabah is a vital part of the economic rise of Malaysia in the global Arena. Tomara M. Ayo Ph.D., a retired diplomat of the Republic of the Philippines stated that this issue, the Philippine reclamation on Sabah is not new in the Philippine Government as it is one of the old issues in the republic, but diplomacy will always prevail in handling this issue. Dr. Ayo further stated that economically, the Philippine reclamation on Sabah will also have effects especially since there are Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) in Sabah, they will be the ones who will directly be affected.

Perceptions on the Philippine reclamation on Sabah and its political repercussions.

The researchers collected the perceptions of the respondents regarding the Effects of the Philippine reclamation on Sabah to the Philippines – Malaysia Relations from 2010 to 2020. From the 100 respondents that participated, the results and findings are as shown

Table 6. indicates the perceptions of the respondents regarding the Effects of the Philippine reclamation on Sabah to the Philippines – Malaysia Relations from 2010 to 2020.

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
9. In this framework of dispute, the Philippines is perceived to be the one who is upsetting the calm of the bilateral ties; hence, the Philippines' reclamation is deserving of being accused of the guilt.	1.98	Undecided	1
5. Malaysia continues to be one of the Philippines' most important trading partners and investors. Also mentioned were counterterrorism cooperation, the promotion of moderate Islam in mostly Muslim areas, and Malaysia's support for Mindanao's development. If these difficulties around Sabah persisted, the aforementioned revitalization plan would not be implemented.	2.08	Undecided	2
4. Recent turmoil in Sabah has rekindled interest in the state's Filipino community. Filipinos, regardless of whether they are refugees, economic migrants, or illegal immigrants, are frequently grouped together and exposed to numerous unfavorable stereotypes and prejudices.	2.16	Undecided	3
7. This conflict could be carried into the regional context of ASEAN; hence, the issue will not only linger in the bilateral relations between the Philippines and Malaysia, but may also penetrate into their multilateral interactions.	2.18	Undecided	4
3. The reclamation on Sabah would only keep the tension between Philippines and Malaysia worse, thus, this tension would affect the lives and livelihood of the people near the area. Difficulties around Sabah persisted, the aforementioned revitalization plan would not be implemented.	2.25	Undecided	5
8. On the other hand, neither the Philippines nor Malaysia intend to use their own armed forces in an attempt to take control of the region.	2.27	Undecided	6
1. The state of Sabah, has long been a significant source of friction in relations between the Philippines and Malaysia, although the conflict is currently secondary to those involving the South China Sea.	2.31	Undecided	7
2. If the two states cannot find a common ground to share, the relations is likely to fail.	2.32	Undecided	8
6. The ongoing tension between the Philippines and Malaysia will certainly affect the promotion of the trade and investments in the context of Philippines-Malaysia relations	2.37	Agree	9
10. The Philippines and Malaysia should both rethink their actions and make a concerted effort to maintain their bilateral relations because of the benefits and reasons that will be lost as a result of their desire to engage in conflict. This should be held accountable for the benefits and reasons that will be given up.	2.46	Agree	10
TOTAL AVERAGE WEIGHTED MEAN	2.14	Undecided	

Legend: Disagree 1.00 – 1.67, Undecided 1.68 – 2.35, Agree 2.36 – 3.00

Table 6 revealed the overall mean of 2.24 which corresponds to undecided in verbal interpretation, data reveals that the respondent's perception of the Philippine reclamation on Sabah is not sure whether the reclamation fueled with the political aspiration that would result in failure on diplomatic relations with the two countries.

The Tragedy of Great Power Politics by John Mearsheimer gives a structural realist (sometimes called as neo-realist) perspective on the international system, specifically aggressive realism. Unlike early classical realism historians such as Hans Morgenthau, Mearsheimer believes that the structure of the international system, rather than moral concerns or a specific leader's traits, is the cause of conflict. In contrast to other structural realists such as Kenneth Waltz, Mearsheimer argues that states desire as much power as they can gain, rather than what he calls defensive realists who claim that

nations want to maintain the balance of power (Mearsheimer 2001, 22). According to Mearsheimer, conflict is an inevitable part of the international system since the dynamics of great power politics eventually lead to battles over system supremacy.

In an article of Ambassador Gurjit Singh (2020), he underscored Sabah engages in unrecorded that commerce with the southern Philippines islands that are located in the Sulu and Celebes Seas. The unpredictability of the Sabah dispute has a negative impact on the growth of trade in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area, which is a subregional grouping within ASEAN that is the counterpart of the Greater Mekong Subregion. This argument will be undermined even further by the revived claim of the Philippines. On the other hand, the data result shows that the respondents are unable to articulate a clear answer to this matter.

In an article by Mong Palatino (2013) entitled Filipinos Look to the UN, ASEAN for Help in Sabah he stressed that there are approximately 800,000 Filipinos in Sabah, both with and without proper documentation. There are reports that residents of Sabah who have Filipino ancestry have been harassed by Malaysian authorities who are desperate to catch the leaders of the Royal Sulu Army. The Malaysian authorities are desperate to catch the leaders of the Royal Sulu Army. Recent statements made by the Philippine government have condemned what are alleged to be acts of violence and discrimination against Filipinos in the region. Tomara M. Ayo Ph.D., a retired diplomat of the Republic of the Philippines stated that this issue, the Philippine reclamation on Sabah is not new in the Philippine Government as it is one of the old issues in the republic, but diplomacy will always prevail in handling this issue. Dr. Ayo further stated that politically, the Philippine reclamation on Sabah will also have effects on the bilateral relations between the two states but yet again Malaysia – Philippines good relationship will prevail despite of this issue.

Interpretation of Findings

Meriam Defensor Santiago (2013) explained what is at stake in this dispute. She explained that two major prizes are at risk in the Philippines-Malaysia territorial conflict over Sabah: natural resources and national security.

Both natural resources and national security are important for a state to co-survive with the other states. However, due to the fact that resources are limited, states commonly enter into conflict contesting against the other to win what it thinks it deserve to own. And in this conflict that national security is compromised, then narrative of the dispute then flows.

The quarrel of the Philippine Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Teodoro Locsin and Malaysian Minister of Foreign Ambassador Hishammuddin Hussein on twitter was the first stages of conflict over the matter of Sabah. In this study, the responses are commonly *undecided* towards both economic and political repercussions of the Philippine reclamation.

Many of the responses are *undecided* whether or not the reclamation on Sabah is a good step even though natural resources in Sabah is so much helpful to keep the economic standing of the Philippines.

Sabah's enormous wealth in natural resources is a significant benefit for the Philippine economy. In the context of international relations, this paints a picture of defensive realism because it illustrates how the Philippines is expanding beyond its recognized borders in order to maintain its standing. It is common knowledge that the international community does not recognize any one government as having the authority to govern it; this fact alone demonstrates that the conflict between Malaysia and the Philippines is of an anarchic nature. Since Malaysia and the Philippines are both unitary actors, the manifestation of anarchism can be seen in the pursuit by these states of their own policies to ensure their own survival.

In the narrative of survival, national security is at risk to both states, it is understood that in a contest only one should

prevail over the other, hence, 'contestants will do everything to win over the other even if this will cost a hardline defeat of the other. Thus, the use of military arsenal has a great potential of happening. This is where the offensive realism comes in.

Robert D. Kaplan (2012), stated that John Mearsheimer emphasized in his theory (offensive realism) that there is a need to hold on security because states tend to get aggressive, too. The capacity of a state to provide for the safety and defense of its population is one definition of what is meant by the term "national security" as defined by the United Nations.

The Philippines must consider the political repercussions of its reclamation over Sabah not alone o the reasons of military attacks but to the overall impact of its actions that can cause severe negative effect to its citizenry. In this study, the responses shows that the Philippines should be held accountable in disrupting the peace in Philippines-Malaysia bilateral relations, and responses also show that the respondents agree that Malaysia is a big trading partner and investor and that if the Philippines continues to disrupt the ties by persistently reclaiming Sabah, Malaysia could become a loss for Philippines. Therefore, the Philippine reclamation over Sabah is offensive to both Philippines and Malaysia. At any rate, the Philippine reclamation over Sabah is a counterattack to the Philippines itself.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data obtained, interpreted, and analyzed, the researchers concluded that this study is answered almost by female respondents from the four mentioned departments. It is also included that this study is intended only for International Relations, Political Science, History, and Economics students and their perceptions are what the researchers trying to know. This study is merely about the perceived effects of the Philippine reclamation on Sabah and its effects on the Philippines-Malaysia relations. In line with the statement of the problem of the study, the researchers found out from the results that the responses' average

weighted mean in Part II is 2.24 and in Part III is 2.34 both having a verbal interpretation of undecided, this means that the respondents are not determined whether the indicators could help or not, thus, the respondents also see that negative repercussions are potential to happening in the reclamation of the Philippines on Sabah such that this reclamation will only increase the abnormal ties and tension between Malaysia and the Philippines.

However, in Part II, the responses are honest in the part of the respondents. Respondents agree to that the Philippines should take accountability for its actions, specifically, the respondents find that the Philippines is perceived to be the one who is upsetting the calm of the bilateral ties; hence, the Philippines' reclamation is deserving of being accused of the guilt. Also, the respondents understand that Malaysia is an important trading actor such that Malaysia continues to be one of the Philippines' most important trading partners and investors. Also mentioned were counterterrorism cooperation, the promotion of moderate Islam in mostly Muslim areas, and Malaysia's support for Mindanao's development, thus, if the Philippines continues to reclaim and these difficulties around Sabah persist, the revitalization plan will not be implemented.

At a certain point, the Philippine reclamation is good economic terms, nonetheless, the political repercussions are not good for the Philippines itself, making its reclamation a counterattack against itself. Thus, the Philippine reclamation to Sabah, in the light of realism is economically defensive since responses agree that Sabah is helpful to the economy of the Philippines, but the Philippine reclamation on Sabah is politically offensive since responses agree that the Philippines should be accountable for its actions about disrupting the peace of the bilateral relations and that Malaysian investment is big loss for the Philippines if the Philippines continues to reclaim Sabah, compromising much of the bilateral ties.

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