



## UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES INC.

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PRESS RELEASE  
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### **ULAP Leads Insightful Webinar on Enhancing Marine Resources and Maritime Spaces in the Philippines**

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), in partnership with The Asia Foundation and Waypoints, successfully hosted a timely webinar entitled "Advancing the Interest of an Archipelagic Nation: The Role of Local Government in Enhancing the Country's Marine Resources and Maritime Spaces" last January 22.

The webinar featured distinguished panelists shedding light on crucial aspects of marine resource management. Dr. Rhodora Azanza, Professor Emeritus of the Marine Science Institute at the University of the Philippines Diliman, led the first session, emphasizing the pivotal role played by LGUs in enhancing marine resources and bolstering the sustainable growth of the Blue Economy.

The second session, presented by Prof. Jay Batongbacal, Director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs and Laws of the Sea, delved into the issues surrounding maritime security, and the importance of legislating a maritime zones law, as well as opportunities for the advancement of marine spaces. Prof. Batongbacal discussed the critical responsibilities held by LGUs in safeguarding the nation's marine and maritime interests.

"The webinar is part of ULAP's strategic initiative to promote the sustainable and effective use of local marine resources. Having supported the Blue Economy Bill during its legislative process, ULAP now urges the passage of the Maritime Zones Act which will empower LGUs by providing clear delineations of maritime jurisdiction," said ULAP President Gov. Dax Cua.

With a turnout of 88 participants representing 32 LGUs, the webinar served as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among stakeholders committed to advancing the nation's maritime agenda.



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The lecture was the first installment of ULAP's on-going webinar series. Advocates of participatory local governance are encouraged to stay tuned for upcoming webinars that promise to explore critical issues affecting the nation.

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ULAP is the umbrella organization of all leagues of local government units and local government officials in country, serving as the focal representative and mouthpiece of the subnational government in all policy and program platforms to amplify our unified advocacy towards the strengthening of LGUs into able partners in nation-building.

Learn more at [www.ulap.net.ph](http://www.ulap.net.ph).