

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

Introduced by **MAGDALO PARTY-LIST Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO ALLOT A BUDGET EQUIVALENT TO TWO PERCENT (2%) OF THE COUNTRY'S GDP TO EFFECTIVELY INCREASE THE PHILIPPINES' DEFENSE SPENDING AT PAR WITH THE ASEAN REGIONAL STANDARDS

WHEREAS, after the US Military Bases Agreement was repealed in 1992, the Philippines was left with an armed forces that has very limited capabilities wherein it is basically internal security defense oriented and almost zero capability with regard territorial defense;

WHEREAS, in 1995, the Philippines embarked on a program to modernize our armed forces through Republic Act No. 7898. Said law would run for fifteen (15) years and would provide the AFP an amount of P331 billion with an initial budget of P50 billion for the first five years;

WHEREAS, in 2012, former President Benigno Aquino III signed into law Republic Act No. 10349 or the revised AFP modernization act which extended the military modernization program anew for 15 years to boost the AFP's capability as it shifts from internal security operations to external defense;

WHEREAS, despite the enactment of Republic Act No. 7898 in 1995 or the "AFP Modernization Act", and the passage of Republic Act No. 10349 or the "Revised AFP Modernization Act" in 2012, the procurement of crucial defense materials were insignificant and, sadly, the Armed Forces of the Philippines still remains among the least capable militaries in the region;

WHEREAS, compared to our ASEAN neighbors, the Philippines defense spending as percentage of GDP is low by regional standards. The average defense spending as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) was 2.2% in ASEAN while the Philippines is way below that average with 1.1%;

WHEREAS, the defense spending of the Philippines is only 5.4% of the total government spending which is below the 8.6% average among member countries of the ASEAN;

WHEREAS, while there have been increases in defense spending in the previous years, the increases have been marginal, starting from low levels, and insufficient vis-a-vis range of security threats that the Philippines is facing, including terrorism;

WHEREAS, in view of the passage of two modernization laws for the AFP and the multitude of problems that our armed forces needs to contend with, there is a need to modernize the AFP and increase the defense spending of our country in order for the AFP to fulfill their mandate as protector of the people and the State;

WHEREAS, as representatives of the people, and as an expression of our gratitude and support to the AFP, the country's defense spending should be increased to at least 2% of our GDP to make it at par with the ASEAN regional standards;

NOW THEREFORE, AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS, to allot a budget equivalent to 2% of the country's GDP to effectively increase the Philippines' defense spending at par with the ASEAN regional standards.

Adopted,



MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List