

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 676



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OPPOSE THE UNILATERAL DECISION OF PRESIDENT DUTERTE TO TERMINATE THE VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the Philippines recognizes that establishing diplomatic relations with other states is one way to promote peace and stability;

WHEREAS, on August 30, 1951, the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) between the Philippines and the United States (US) was ratified to emphasize a mutual commitment to peacefully resolve international disputes and provide mutual aid in the event of external attack;

WHEREAS, on February 10, 1998, as reaffirmation of the MDT, the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) was made to govern the terms of the temporary visits of the US military troops in the Philippines during their military exercises with their Filipino counterparts;

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered to start the termination process of the VFA following the reported cancellation of entry visa of Senator Ronald Dela Rosa to the United States;

WHEREAS, the impulsive decision to abrogate the VFA based merely on personal motivations will compromise the longstanding and cordial diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the US;

WHEREAS, while the VFA may have contentious terms, we could not deny that it has served the Philippines in terms of ensuring the security of our nation and its people;

WHEREAS, the arrangement established by the VFA has been vital in the execution of the MDT which offers a strong and responsive security partnership against any threat to national security;

WHEREAS, the VFA has helped the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) through upgrading military capability and providing trainings in line with the latest developments in modern warfare;

WHEREAS, through the VFA, the AFP has also acquired critical intelligence from its US counterparts which has been useful in our counterterrorism efforts;


WHEREAS, the VFA has also formed interoperability between the armed forces of the Philippines and the US that has been proven beneficial in joint operations, particularly in disaster relief missions;

WHEREAS, in view of the many security threats that the Philippines is facing at present, the VFA continues to contribute in addressing the vulnerabilities of our national security;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Philippines to oppose the unilateral decision of President Duterte to terminate the VFA with the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the offices of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of National Defense, and Secretary of Justice.

Adopted,


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