Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

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## **EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

636

HOUSE RESOLUTION No.



Introduced by Representatives ABANTE, BIENVENIDO JR. M., ABELLANOSA, RODRIGO A., ACOP, RESURRECCION M., ADVINCULA, ALEX "AA" L., AGABAS, TYRONE D., AGLIPAY, MICHAEL EDGAR Y., ALBANO, ANTONIO "TONYPET" T., ALFONSO, SAMANTHA LOUISE VARGAS, ALVAREZ, FRANZ "CHICOY" E., ALVAREZ, GENARO JR. M., ARAGONES, SOL, AUMENTADO, ERICO ARISTOTLE C., BAGATSING, CRISTAL L., BARBA, ANGELO MARCOS, BARONDA, JULIENNE "JAM" L., BARZAGA, ELPIDIO JR. F., BELMONTE, JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y., BENITEZ, FRANCISCO "KIKO" B., BERNOS, JOSEPH STO. NIÑO B., BIRON, BRAEDEN JOHN Q., BOLILIA, LIANDA B., BORDADO, GABRIEL JR. H., BROSAS, ARLENE D., CABATBAT, ARGEL JOSEPH T., CAGAS, MERCEDES "DIDI" C., CALDERON, PETER JOHN D., CAMINERO, WILFREDO "WILLY" S., CANAMA, SABINIANO S., CASTELO, PRECIOUS HIPOLITO, CASTRO, FRANCE L., CAYETANO, MARIA LAARNI, CELESTE, ARNOLD "NOLI" D., CHUNGALAO, SOLOMON R., CRISOLOGO, ANTHONY PETER "ONYX" D., CUARESMA, LUISA LLOREN, CUEVA, LEO RAFAEL M., CULLAMAT, EUFEMIA "KA FEMIA" C., DAGOOC, SERGIO C., DALOG, MAXIMO JR. Y., DATOL, FRANCISCO JR. G., DEFENSOR, LORENZ R., DEFENSOR, MICHAEL T., DELOSO-MONTALLA, CHERYL P., DUAVIT, MICHAEL JOHN R., DY, FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS III T., EBCAS, ADRIANO A., ENVERGA, WILFRIDO MARK M., ERIGUEL, SANDRA Y., M.D., ERMITA-BUHAIN, ELENITA MILAGROS "EILEEN", ESCUDERO, EVELINA G., FERRER, JULIET MARIE DE LEON, FLORES, JONATHAN KEITH T., FORTUN, LAWRENCE "LAW" H., FORTUNO, JOCELYN F., FUENTEBELLA, ARNIE B., GAITE, FERDINAND R., GARBIN, ALFREDO JR. A., GATO, CIRIACO JR. B., GONZALES, NEPTALI II M., GUICO, RAMON III "MON-MON" V., GUYA, GODOFREDO N., HARESCO, TEODORICO JR. T., HATAMAN, MUJIV S., HOFER, ANN K., KHO, ELISA "OLGA" T., LABADLABAD, GLONA G., LACSON, VIRGILIO S., LAGMAN, EDCEL C., LEGARDA, LOREN, LIMKAICHONG, JOCELYN SY, LOPEZ, MANUEL LUIS T., LOYOLA, DAHLIA A., LUSOTAN, MACNELL M., MACEDA, EDWARD VERA PEREZ, MANGUDADATU, ESMAEL G., MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, RUTH, MARIÑO, MARIO VITTORIO "MARVEY" A., MARTINEZ, ERIC M., MATBA, RASHIDIN H., MENDOZA, RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C., MOMO, ROMEO SR. S., NOGRALES, JERICHO JONAS B., NOGRALES, JUAN FIDEL FELIPE F., ONG, JOSE JR. "JUN" L., ORTEGA, PABLO C., PACQUIAO, ALBERTO "BOBBY" D., PACQUIAO, ROGELIO "RUEL" D., PALMA, WILTER "SHARKY" II WEE, PANCHO, GAVINI "APOL" C., PANOTES, MARISOL C., PEÑA, ROMULO JR. "KID", PIMENTEL, JOHNNY TY, QUIMBO, STELLA LUZ A., RAMIREZ-SATO, JOSEPHINE, RAMOS, MA. BERNARDITA "DITAS" B., RIVERA, DOMINGO C., ROBES, FLORIDA "RIDA" P., RODRIGUEZ, RUFUS

B., ROGER G. MERCADO, ROMERO, MICHAEL L., PH.D., ROMUALDO, XAVIER JESUS D., ROQUE, ROGELIO NEIL P., SACDALAN, JOSELITO "JOEL" S., SAGARBARRIA, MANUEL T., SAKALURAN, PRINCESS RIHAN M., SALCEDA. JOEY SARTE, SALO, RON P., SANGCOPAN, AMIHILDA J., SAULOG, IRENE GAY F., SAVELLANO, DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B., SINGSON, JOSE JR. "BONITO" C., SINGSON-MEEHAN, KRISTINE, SUANSING, ESTRELLITA B., SUAREZ, ALETA C., SUAREZ, DAVID "JAY-JAY" C., SY-ALVARADO, "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R., TALLADO, JOSEFINA B., TAMBUNTING, JOY MYRA S., TEJADA, JOSE "PING-PING" I., TOLENTINO, ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N., TORRES-GOMEZ, LUCY, TUPAS, RAUL "BOBOY" C., TY, ALLAN U., TY, DIEGO "NONOY" C., UMALI, MA. VICTORIA V., UY, JULIETTE T., VILLAFUERTE, LUIS RAYMUND JR. "LRAY" F., VILLANUEVA, EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C., VILLANUEVA, NOEL L., ZARATE, CARLOS ISAGANI T., ZUBIRI, MANUEL F.

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RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT THE RESUMPTION OF THE PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP) AND THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDFP) BASED ON PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES INCLUDING THE HAGUE JOINT DECLARATION OF 1992 AND THE STAND-DOWN AGREEMENT ON **JUNE 2018** 

WHEREAS, during a situational briefing on Typhoon Tisoy in Legaspi City, Albay last December 5, 2019, President Rodrigo R. Duterte said that he was ordering Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III to meet with exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison in Europe. The president, however, did not specify on the content of the meeting, but said that "the quest for longing for peace has always been there" and that it was his "last card;"

WHEREAS, on Dec. 6, 2019, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, Jr. claims that President Duterte is serious about starting another round of peace talks with NDFP. He was also quick to add that the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) have no choice but to accept that the talks should be held in the Philippines; and the that talks should be accompanied by a ceasefire. Also, Esperon said that the military will continue operations against the communists until the formal peace talks resume;1

WHEREAS, Jose Ma. Sison and the NDFP said that they would welcome the GRP envoys if President Duterte sends them to revive the stalled peace negotiations between the parties. Last Dec. 5, 2019, Sison said that the NDFP is always open for the resumption of talks for the benefit of the Filipino people despite after its unilateral termination by President Duterte.<sup>2</sup> Although, Sison said that the NDFP will not agree to submit itself to conditions that will only imperil the talks as well as the security of those involved in the talks;

WHEREAS, there were significant strides made in the peace negotiations before it was terminated. Last June 2018, the negotiating panels of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the NDFP initialed a Stand-Down Agreement binding the military, the

<sup>1</sup> https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/08/19/duterte-serious-about-peace-with-reds-natl-security-adviser

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.rappler.com/nation/246617-esperon-says-duterte-wants-cpp-npa-peace-talks-philippines

police, and the New People's Army from hostilities as "goodwill and confidence-building measures" for the agreed resumption of the fifth round of talks set to be held on June 28-30, 2018;

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WHEREAS, the Stand-Down Agreement was signed by the GRP and the NDFP, led by respective panel chiefs Secretary Silvestre Bello III on the part of the government, Fidel Agcaoili on the part of the NDFP, and also signed by the third-party facilitator Norwegian Ambassador Idun Tvedt;

WHEREAS, the same document further stated that "The Stand-Down shall be declared and announced simultaneously by both Parties one (1) week before the agreed date of resumption of the formal talks" and that the "Stand-Down shall be understood to mean temporary cessation of hostilities in which the contending armed units and personnel of the Parties stay where they are ("as is where is"), take an active defense mode, and shall not commit any offensive action or operation against combatants and civilians";

WHEREAS, the Stand-Down Agreement and the agenda to forge an Interim Peace Agreement reflect the aspirations of the Filipino to advance the peace process that will address the root cause of the armed conflict and put an end to armed hostilities;

WHEREAS, last June 13, however, President Rodrigo Duterte instructed his peace panel to engage the "bigger table" first before they would work out agreements with the communist leaders. This pronouncement effectively cancelled the scheduled resumption of the fifth round of formal peace talks on June 28;

WHEREAS, the fifth round of the peace negotiations seeks to forge an Interim Peace Agreement which contains key provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER), general amnesty of political prisoners, and coordinated unilateral ceasefire;

WHEREAS, the peace talks between the GRP and the NDFP has progressed based on the reaffirmation of previous agreements such as The Hague Declaration, the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL.) The Stand Down Agreement and the progress made on the forging of social and economic rights should also be upheld and reaffirmed;

WHEREAS, as representatives of the people, members of the House of Representatives are duty bound to express the sentiments and interests of our constituents for the immediate resumption of the stalled peace talks, and to forge substantive agreements that will resolve the root causes of the half-century-long armed conflict. The quest for a just and lasting peace should compel us legislators and peace advocates to push for the resumption of the peace talks between the government and the NDFP;

 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the House of Representatives express its support for the resumption of the peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) based on previous agreements between the two parties including the Hague Joint Declaration of 1992 and the Stand-Down Agreement on June 2018.

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## RESOLUTION

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**ON JUNE 2018** Cong. Kuya Jose R. Sy- Murrando . (my Villagues fe Cong. Frankol Tokatino Cory. ternel Tot Myrtolin Rash Matba CONG MIKETE ROMERG Hercedes C. Cagos LABKOLASKO FRED EMITA-BUMIN anc MARGINGE

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