

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

Nineteenth Congress

Third Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 236

RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION
OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND JAPAN
CONCERNING THE FACILITATION OF
RECIPROCAL ACCESS AND COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND THE SELF-DEFENSE
FORCES OF JAPAN

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 21 of the Philippine Constitution states that, "No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate";

WHEREAS, the Agreement Between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan Concerning the Facilitation of Reciprocal Access and Cooperation Between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan (Agreement) was signed on 8 July 2024 in Manila;

WHEREAS, the Agreement outlines the provisions on entry and departure, movement, access to facilities, and professional practice of the Visiting Force and Civilian Component for the purpose of cooperative activities, as well as the rules governing the jurisdiction over the actions of the Visiting Force and Civilian Component;

WHEREAS, the Agreement aims to deepen the security and defense cooperation between the Philippines and Japan, and enhance the interoperability between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan by enabling more in-depth practical military cooperation and exercises between both countries;

WHEREAS, the Agreement will expand the defense cooperation of the Philippines and Japan in the maritime domain amid shared security challenges;

WHEREAS, ratifying the Agreement further affirms the strategic partnership between the two countries and their mutual goal to enhance contribution to regional and international peace, security, and stability;

WHEREAS, the President of the Philippines ratified the Agreement on 5 November 2024 and has submitted it to the Senate for concurrence, in accordance with the Philippine Constitution;

WHEREAS, in the hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on 25 November 2024, the following government agencies endorsed the concurrence in the ratification of the Agreement:

- (1) Department of Foreign Affairs;
- (2) Department of National Defense;
- (3) Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- (4) Department of Justice;
- (5) Department of Finance;
- (6) Presidential Commission on Visiting Forces;
- (7) Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- (8) Bureau of Customs; and
- (9) Professional Regulation Commission;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To concur in the ratification of the Agreement Between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan Concerning the Facilitation of Reciprocal Access and Cooperation Between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan.

Resolved, further, That well-delineated provisions on custody of members of the Visiting Force or Civilian Component will be set forth in the implementing agreement.

Resolved, furthermore, That the Department of National Defense shall further clarify the present provisions on jurisdiction in the implementing agreement.

Resolved, finally, That the President of the Philippines may, with the concurrence of the Senate, withdraw from the Agreement.

Adopted,



FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO

President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on December 16, 2024.



RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.

Secretary of the Senate