

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Metro Manila
Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of July, two thousand sixteen.

RESOLUTION NO. 50

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE TO CONTINUE THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP) AND THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDFP), CONSIDERING THE UNPRECEDENTED AND SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES MADE ON THE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2017, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte announced that the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is terminated "unless there is a compelling reason that will benefit the nation". This was after both parties lifted their respective unilateral cease-fire declarations;

WHEREAS, termination of the peace talks was announced just barely two (2) weeks after what has been a successful third round of talks, held in January 19 to 25 at Rome, Italy, with both panels achieving significant advances from the major issues listed in their January 18 agenda, which include the following:

(a) Breakthrough in the discussion on the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER), a landmark document that shall address the country's chronic poverty situation, with both parties reaching an agreement in principle on the first four (4) items of the draft, which include the distribution of land for free to landless farmers;

(b) Agreement to form Bilateral Working Teams of Reciprocal Working Committees (RWCs) in order to accelerate the drafting of the CASER;

(c) Exchange of drafts and initial discussion on Political and Constitutional Reforms;

(d) Signing of a Supplementary Agreement for the operationalization of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL); and

(e) Agreement of both parties to discuss GRP's proposal for a bilateral cease-fire on February 22 to 25, 2017 in the Netherlands.

WHEREAS, it should be emphasized, as compared to previous administrations, that the peace negotiations under the Duterte administration have reached remarkable and unparalleled headway; terminating the same would only put to waste the unprecedented, positive and substantial gains the peace talks have reached. In fact, it is expected in the fourth round of talks that major points will be agreed upon that will lead to the signing of the CASER;

WHEREAS, it is highly imperative that this Congress, as the voice of its constituents, heed the Filipino people's desire to support the resumption of the peace negotiations. It is just and lasting peace itself that is the very compelling reason to continue the peace negotiations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, To urge President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to continue the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), considering the unprecedented and significant advances made on the substantive agenda of the negotiations for the benefit of the Filipino people.

Adopted,



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Speaker

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on March 15, 2017.



CESAR STRAIT PAREJA
Secretary General

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