



PRESS STATEMENT

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On the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA)

The decision issued by the Supreme Court validates the position of the Government of the Philippines that EDCA merely implements the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) and the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

It is worthy to recall that the MDT and the VFA were previously executed by the Governments of the Philippines and the United States of America.

During the negotiations for EDCA, the Government of the Philippines worked within the provisions of the MDT and the VFA. Also, the Government of the Philippines made sure that EDCA would be in accordance with the Philippine Constitution, other relevant laws, and the pertinent decisions previously issued by the Supreme Court.

In the discussions that will follow for the implementation of EDCA, the Government of the Philippines will ensure that the implementation of EDCA will continue to be in compliance with the Philippine Constitution, other laws, and the decision recently issued by the Supreme Court.

The DND and the AFP are currently studying which AFP bases would be the agreed locations, where the US Military may have access from time to time, to fulfill the objectives of the MDT and the VFA, and will best execute the defense strategies of the Philippines.

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