

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 97, November 29, 2019]

REORGANIZING THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON VISITING FORCES, THEREBY AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 175 (S. 2014)

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 199 (s. 2000) created the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (PCVFA) under the Office of the President to monitor compliance with the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA);

WHEREAS, EO No. 67 (s. 2002) reduced the composition of the PCVFA and included its Executive Director as a member;

WHEREAS, EO No. 9 (s. 2010) designated the Executive Secretary as Chairman of the PCVFA;

WHEREAS, EO No. 175 (s. 2014) renamed the PCVFA to the Presidential Commission on Visiting Forces (PCVF);

WHEREAS, there is a need to further reorganize the PCVF to ensure an effective integration of its functions with the Government's independent foreign policy;

WHEREAS, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is mandated to serve as the channel for matters involving foreign relations, and to carry out legal documentation functions as provided by law and regulations;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 17, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution, the President shall have control of all the executive departments, bureaus, and offices;

WHEREAS, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292 (s. 1987), otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, vests in the President the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

Section 1 . Section 1 of EO No. 175 is hereby amended to read as follows:

*"Section 1. Mandate. — The PCVFA is hereby renamed the Presidential Commission on Visiting Forces, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," **which shall be attached to the DFA while being under the oversight of the Office of the President.** The Commission shall be the lead inter-agency mechanism to provide policy coordination and advice, guidance, and assessment to ensure that all SOFAs serve the national interest.*