STATEMENT OF ALUMNI OF THE COLLEGE OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO RETRACT HIS DAMAGING STATEMENTS ON THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

WHEREAS, the Constitution mandates that the "State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its xxx exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens";

Whereas, the July 12, 2016 Arbitral Award has affirmed the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea;

Whereas, the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea is larger in area than the combined area of all the islands of the Philippines;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned graduates of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines, hereby demand that President Duterte RETRACT his statements that -

1. The July 12, 2016 Arbitral Award is just a scrap of paper that deserves to be thrown to the wastebasket;

2. The Chinese fishermen can fish in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea; and

3. China is in possession of the West Philippine Sea.

These statements are contrary to the Constitution, waive our sovereign rights under the Arbitral Award and even concede to China possession of the West Philippine Sea when in fact China is not physically and legally in possession of the West Philippine Sea.

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