

ADR STATEMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS THAT THE ARBITRAL RULING IS A SCRAP OF PAPER THAT IS INTENDED FOR THE WASTE BASKET

**By Amb. Albert Del Rosario
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The US, UK, France, Germany, Australia, Japan, EU, Indonesia and other responsible nations believe that the Arbitral Ruling is valid, binding and should be enforced against China pursuant to international law.

China, the illegal occupant in the West Philippine Sea, believes that the Arbitral Ruling is a mere scrap of paper. The Philippines is the country which won the Arbitral Ruling against China. It is, therefore, a national tragedy that the President of the Philippines takes the side of China and believes that the Arbitral Ruling is a scrap of paper meant to be thrown in the waste basket, to the severe prejudice of the Filipino people.

On China's occupation of Scarborough Shoal, we wish to reiterate that it was China which deceitfully breached the US-brokered agreement for a mutual withdrawal. Until now, China continues to openly violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines by illegally occupying certain features in the West Philippine Sea. Why are Filipinos being blamed for the loss of Scarborough Shoal and not China and its duplicity?

We would like to respectfully reiterate that it is the President's sworn duty under the Constitution to protect the

West Philippine Sea and enforce the Arbitral Award against China. With due respect, this is not a blaming game among Filipinos, but a constitutional mandate to be acted upon against a foreign aggressor for the benefit of our country and the Filipino people.

Finally, I fully appreciate the President's desire to be informed regarding the US brokered agreement on Scarborough and look forward to responding this issue. END