



## PHILIPPINE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

Unit 347, Third Floor, Valero Plaza  
124 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City  
Tel. Nos. 8815-3080 \* 8813-5631  
E-mail: philbar.association@gmail.com  
Website: www.philbar.ph

### STATEMENT ON THE RECENT OIL SPILL AT VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE AND THE PROPOSED VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE PROTECTED SEASCAPE (VIPPS) BILL OF 2022

**ERNESTINE CARMEN JO D. VILLAREAL-FERNANDO**  
*President*

**JOEL RAYMOND R. AYSON**  
*1st Vice President*

**PETER IRVING C. CORVERA**  
*2nd Vice President*

**JOSEPH MANOLO R. REBANO**  
*3rd Vice President*

**RODOLFO A. GAMBOA**  
*Vice President for Administration & Finance*

**CHRYSILLA CARISSA P. BAUTISTA**  
*Treasurer*

**VICTOR EMMANUEL M. PANGILINAN**  
*Assistant Treasurer*

**ARNEL VICTOR C. VALEÑA**  
*Corporate Secretary*

**ISRAFEL D. FAGELA**  
*Assistant Corporate Secretary*

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

JOSE LUIS V. AGCAOILI  
JOEL RAYMOND R. AYSON  
CHRYSILLA CARISSA P. BAUTISTA  
RODELLE B. BOLANTE  
PETER IRVING C. CORVERA  
RICO V. DOMINGO  
ISRAFEL D. FAGELA  
ABDIEL DAN ELIJAH S. FAJARDO  
ERNESTINE CARMEN JO D. VILLAREAL-FERNANDO  
ALFREDO B. MOLO III  
MIGUEL LUIS H. OROSA  
VICTOR EMMANUEL M. PANGILINAN  
JOSEPH MANOLO R. REBANO  
MARIA TERESITA GERALDINE C. SISON GO  
ARNEL VICTOR C. VALEÑA

#### COUNCIL OF ADVISERS:

AVELINO J. CRUZ, JR.  
RODEL A. CRUZ  
RUBEN O. FRUTO  
LLEWELLYN L. LLANILLO  
FINA BERNADETTE A. DE LA CUESTA-TANTUICO

Revered as the “center of the center” of the world’s marine biodiversity, the Verde Island Passage is undoubtedly a global environmental treasure and the Philippines’ pride and crown jewel. It is not only home to a myriad of marine species and corrals but also a source of livelihood for over two (2) million Filipinos.

Unfortunately, graft and corruption and the unbridled greed for profit by some sectors of society are leading the Verde Passage to its ultimate destruction and demise. Thus, the Philippine Bar Association strongly denounces the recent oil spill resulting from the sinking of MT Princess Empress and it calls for the absolute prohibition of oil tankers from using the Verde Island Passage.


We, the undersigned Board of Trustees and Advisers of the PBA join the collective demand of local government units and various organizations that the passage be strictly used by passenger and fishing vessels only. Oil tankers and similar transport mechanisms, armed with fraudulent paperwork, carry nothing but doom and destruction. A failure to ban these oil tankers is a failure to protect the dynamic future of Verde Island Passage, and ultimately, marine life.


We likewise fully support and hope for the unimpeded passage of VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE PROTECTED SEASCAPE (VIPPS) BILL OF 2022 or S. No. 518 introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar. Oil spills and biodiversity loss directly impact human life not only in the island but on a national level.


The law is made for man, indeed --- and legislation must serve the purpose of protecting humanity and humanity’s natural habitat.

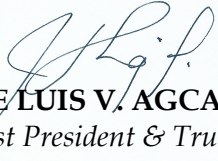
Signatory:

#### PHILIPPINE BAR ASSOCIATION

By:   
**ERNESTINE CARMEN JO D. VILLAREAL-FERNANDO**  
*President*

  
**RITA LINDA V. JIMENO**  
*Environmental Law Committee  
Chair & Past President*


  
**FEDERICO R. AGCAOILI**  
*Environmental Law Committee  
Co-Chair & Past President*



**JOSE LUIS V. AGCAOILI**  
*Past President & Trustee*



**PETER IRVING C. CORVERA**  
*2nd Vice President & Trustee*



**RICO V. DOMINGO**  
*Past President & Trustee*



**LLEWELLYN L. LLANILLO**  
*Past President & Council of Advisers*



**VICTOR EMMANUEL M. PANGILINAN**  
*Assistant Treasurer & Trustee*



**FINA BERNADETTE DELA CUESTA-TANTUICO**  
*Past President & Council of Advisers*



**ARNEL VICTOR C. VALEÑA**  
*Corporate Secretary & Trustee*