

FOREWORD

With the current political climate in the Philippines and the COVID-19 pandemic that forced a slowdown in both public and private sector activities, it has been especially difficult to seek justice and the protection of rights. It is notable that when such circumstances led to the emergence of a belief that domestic institutions are unable to uphold the rule of law, a number of sectors of Philippine society would turn to international institutions for legal protection.

This volume of the *Philippine Yearbook of International Law* serves as an outlet of discussions on issues relating to the application of international law to domestic events. Through this approach – the international law perspective – readers are given a different take on the burning domestic issues of the year 2020.

This issue of the Philippine Yearbook of International Law features four articles written by some of the country's distinguished experts in international law. It also includes the Report on the Preliminary Examination in the Philippines on Extrajudicial Killings issued by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. In addition, this volume contains a summary of twelve treaties and agreements entered into by the Philippines, as well as judicial pronouncements on both public and private international law for the subject year. Finally, the issue also includes two Department of Justice opinions on the Marawi Compensation Bills and a Department of Finance Loan, as well as a listing of books on international law published in 2020.

The efforts of our contributors in continuously studying, debating and sharing their insights on important international law issues and developments amidst these trying times are greatly appreciated. I congratulate the University of the Philippines Law Center - Institute of International Legal Studies and the Philippine Society of International Law for the publication of the 2020 edition of the Philippine Yearbook of International Law despite the challenges of the pandemic.

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