

24 JUL 29 P2:35

SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 1084

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OIL SPILL FROM M/T TERRA NOVA IN LIMAY, BATAAN IN VIEW OF ITS EFFECTS TO THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY AND TO THE HEALTH, FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE IN AFFECTED AREAS

Whereas, Article XIV, Section 19 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

Whereas, Section 2 of Republic Act (RA) No. 9275, otherwise known as the "Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004", provides that it shall be the policy of the State "a) To streamline processes and procedures in the prevention, control and abatement of pollution of the country's water resources; b) To promote environmental strategies, use of appropriate economic instruments and of control mechanisms for the protection of water resources; x x x g) To provide for a comprehensive management program for water pollution focusing on pollution prevention; x x x";

Whereas, Section 2 of RA 9483 or the "Oil Pollution Compensation Act of 2007" provides that that "The State, in the protection of its marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone, adopts internationally accepted measures which impose strict liability for Oil Pollution Damage and ensure prompt and adequate compensation for persons who suffer such damage.";

Whereas, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported that on 27 July 2024 MT Terra Nova, a Philippine registered vessel, carrying 1.4 million liters of industrial

fuel oil,¹ departed Bataan for Iloilo when it capsized 3.6 nautical miles east off Limay town around 1:10 a.m. Thursday, a day after floods triggered by a typhoon-enhanced southwest monsoon, "Carina", submerged most of Luzon.²

Whereas, some of the 1.4 million liters of industrial oil inside the sunken MT Terra Nova has started to leak into Manila Bay, and is now estimated to stretch 12-14 kilometers (7.5-8.7 miles) across the bay.³

Whereas, the oil spill has been estimated to have ruined nearly P1 billion worth of livelihood sources, causing significant economic hardship for the affected communities;⁴

Whereas, the oil spill poses a serious threat to the marine ecosystem, coastal communities, and livelihood sources in the provinces of Bataan, Cavite, Nasugbu in Batangas and Bulacan, including Manila Bay, and potentially other areas along the coastline;⁵

Whereas, this is not the first time that the Philippines experienced a similar incident. Last year, our government agencies struggled to contain serious oil spills as it took months to clean up after a tanker carrying 800,000 liters of industrial fuel oil sank off the central island of Mindoro contaminating waters and beaches in the island which caused the devastation of the rich fishing grounds therein and likewise affected the tourism industries.⁶

Whereas, another tanker sank off the central island of Guimaras in 2006, spilling tens of thousands of gallons of oil that destroyed a marine reserve, ruined local fishing grounds and covered stretches of coastline in black sludge;

Whereas, these environmental disasters severely impact the livelihood sources of many fisherfolk leading to a loss of income and contributing somewhat to the sustainability of our food security;

¹ <https://www.rappler.com/philippines/fuel-tanker-capsizes-submerged-limay-bataan-july-25-2024/>

² <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/914873/philsa-releases-map-showing-possible-extent-of-bataan-oil-spill/story/> and <https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/28/news/national/marcos-creates-bataan-oil-spill-task-force/1960284>

³ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/2024/7/27/philippine-coast-guard-says-oil-leaking-from-sunken-tanker-1429>

⁴ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1966506/marcos-forms-bataan-oil-spill-task-force>

⁵ <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/bataan-oil-spill-reaches-waters-off-bulacan> and <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1966492/pcg-warns-lqus-on-possible-stretch-of-bataan-sunken-tank-oil-spill-to-other-areas>

⁶ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/2024/7/27/philippine-coast-guard-says-oil-leaking-from-sunken-tanker-1429>

Whereas, the protection of the environment and the welfare of affected communities are of utmost importance and require immediate attention and action from the government;


Whereas, proactive measures must be undertaken to protect the affected communities, particularly the fishermen whose means of livelihood depend on the health and sustainability of the marine environment;

Whereas, to address the effects of the oil spill from the sunken tanker, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. created an inter-agency task force which will be led by the Office of the Civil Defense with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) as members. The Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) were also included in the task force.⁷

Whereas, the Senate of the Philippines strongly urges the created inter-agency task force and other appropriate government agencies to conduct a whole-of-government approach in the immediate resolution to the adverse effects of the unfortunate oil spill. **Now, Therefore, be it resolved**,

As it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct as it hereby directs the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the oil spill from the sunken tanker Mt Terra Nova that is causing damages to the marine ecosystem and biodiversity, among its other adverse effects with the end view of determining the cause of the said incident, the ways to combat the negative effects of the oil spill and recommending policy measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Adopted,


FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

⁷ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1229919>