



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **USEC. MARILOU G. ERNI**  
Chief of Staff and Supervising Undersecretary for  
Strategic Communications  
Task Force Commander, Task Force Naujan Oil Spill

FROM : **THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
EMB – MIMAROPA Region

SUBJECT : **SITUATIONAL REPORT RE OIL SPILL IN NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO**

DATE : 11 March 2023

This is to apprise the Undersecretary on the situation regarding the oil spill due to capsized vessel in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro and the actions taken by the DENR – EMB MIMAROPA Region:

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

On 28 February 2023, it was reported by various media outlets that MT Princess Empress, an oil tanker, carrying more or less 800,000 liters of industrial oil, sank off along the coast of Tablas Strait in Balingwan Point, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Based on the preliminary reports from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) situated in Oriental Mindoro, the vessel came from Bataan and on its way to Iloilo when it encountered engine trouble due to overheating until it drifted towards the coast of Balingawan Point and eventually submerged.

On 01 March 2023, Governor Humerlito Dolor of the Province of Oriental Mindoro has officially reported through his Facebook account that the MT Princess Empress has sunk.

Relative thereto, the Department, through its various social media platforms, posted an official statement announcing the creation of “Task Force Naujan Oil Spill” which will be headed by Undersecretary and Chief of Staff Marilou Erni as Task Force Commander.

The Philippine Coast Guard, particularly its Marine Environmental Protection Command, is designated as the lead agency tasked with response operations in its affected area.

In response to the reports that the capsizing of the vessel resulted to an oil spill from the diesel fuel of the ship, this Office has immediately deployed personnel from the Provincial Environmental Management Unit – Oriental Mindoro to conduct water sampling in areas which have been identified to have been potentially affected by the oil spill.

On 03 March 2023, Mayor Jennifer Cruz of LGU – Pola, Oriental Mindoro has declared a state of calamity, due to the massive extent of the impact of the oil spill in the Municipality of Pola, Oriental Mindoro.

Later that day, Petron Philippines issued a statement wherein it has clarified that the 800,0000 liters of industrial fuel oil carried by MT Princess Empress was not sourced from the Petron Bataan Refinery nor does the company own the fuel oil cargo carried by the vessel. Petron adds that the company has stopped producing fuel oil since 2016.

Petron also announced that their Waterborne Industry Oil Spill Equipment (WISE) has already been deployed to assist in the containment of the oil spill. The WISE vessel reached the incident site at 3:20 AM of March 1, 2023 and is now in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard.

Furthermore, Petron's Bataan Refinery and Mabini Terminal have also extended assistance by making their oil spill boom teams and equipment available to further aid in the containment and clearing operations.

On the evening of 03 March 2023, RDC REIELD MARINE SERVICES (RDC), the registered owner of MT Princess Empress, issued a statement through various media outlets.

In their statement, RDC announced that they have already deployed technical experts on the ground, air, and sea to conduct an assessment of the affected areas and come up with an effective dispatch strategy for containing and mitigating the oil spill on the shoreline.

Further, RDC also stated that they have been assisting the PCG in procuring oil spill collection equipment, such as disposable PPEs, open-ended drums, gas masks, and diesel allocation, among others.

Lastly, RDC ensured the concerned local government units of their commitment in providing support despite limited resources and that the company will continue to work closely with the authorities and affected communities until the matter is fully resolved.

At 6:48 PM of 03 March 2023, PCG Region 6 posted an update through the official social media platform, regarding the presence of an undetermined quantity of oil slick within the shorelines of Semirara Island and Liwagao Island in Caluya, Antique.

As of 04 March 2023, the PCG, through their official social media accounts, has confirmed that the impact of the oil spill has reached the shorelines of Caluya, Antique.

Specifically, oil slicks were found in the following barangays of Caluya, Antique, to wit:

1. Sitio Sabang, Brgy. Tinogboc (1 kilometer);
2. Liwagao Island, Brgy. Sibolo (2 kilometers);
3. Sitio Tambak, Brgy. Semirara (2 kilometers)

On the same day, Governor Dolor of the Province of Oriental Mindoro has issued a letter addressed to the Embassy of Japan, through Sec. Enrique Manalo of the Department of Foreign Affairs, requesting for assistance and provision of Oil Containment Booms and other equipment that will help contain the oil spill and mitigate the damage to the waterbodies of Oriental Mindoro.

Furthermore, the Provincial Health Office – Oriental Mindoro directed the local residents to temporarily cease from participating in coastal clean-up operations due to lack of protective gears.



As of 06 March 2023, the Provincial Government of Mindoro has declared a state of calamity in seventy-six (76) coastal barangays across nine municipalities of Oriental Mindoro due to the massive impact caused by the oil spill to the following municipalities, to wit:

- 1. Municipality of Naujan
- 2. Municipality of Pola
- 3. Municipality of Pinamalayan
- 4. Municipality of Gloria
- 5. Municipality of Bansud
- 6. Municipality of Bongabong
- 7. Municipality of Roxas
- 8. Municipality of Mansalay
- 9. Municipality of Bulalacao

On the same day, the Sangguniang Bayan of Caluya, Antique has also passed Resolution No. 31 placing the municipality under the state of calamity. Specifically, the Resolution identified Sitio Sabang in Brgy. Tinogboc, Taong, Banua Proper, and Sitio Balibago in Brgy. Semirara, and Sitio Liwagao in Brgy. Sibolo as areas which have been affected by the oil spill in Antique.

II. EFFECTS

As of date, reports of fish kill and seeping of industrial fuel oil has reached the surrounding water bodies of Oriental Mindoro, including mangrove areas and marine protected areas as a result of the oil spill.

III. ACTIONS TAKEN BY DENR

Since 01 March 2023, EMB – MIMAROPA Region along with our technical teams from the Regional Environmental Laboratory, Provincial Environmental Management Unit (PEMU) – Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro have been working non-stop in collecting and analyzing the water samples from areas affected by the oil spill, coordinating and providing technical assistance to local government units and other concerned government agencies and assisting in clean- up operations.

Below are the latest inventory of wastes collected per barangay:

Municipality	Barangay	Oil Contaminated Materials	
		Volume (Liters)	Weight (Kgs)
Pola, Oriental Mindoro	Calima	3600	3240
	Batohan	4700	4230
	Misong	800	720
Total		9,100	8,190

On 10 March 2023, the Philippine Coast Guard, thru their official social media accounts, has reported that the oil spill has already reached the shores of Brgy. Casian, Taytay, Palawan. Based on their initial report, Brgy. Casian is located 159 nautical miles or 295 kilometers away from Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Based on the latest update by the University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute as of 5:30 PM, a warning has been raised on areas of Northwestern Palawan. The communities are advised to report any sightings to government authorities to await for advice pertaining to clean-up activities.



As of March 11, 2023, our sampling team from the Provincial Environmental Management Unit (PEMU) – Palawan, joined by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO), Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) – Palawan and PCG, were deployed in Taytay, Palawan to conduct water sampling in areas affected by the oil spill.

Prior to the conduct of water sampling, Ms. Nicaith Enrile, Chief – EMS Taytay, Palawan and Ms. Mercedita Almorfe, Supervising EMS, PEMU – Palawan conducted a coordination meeting with the barangay officials of Brgy. Casian, Taytay, Palawan. The coordination meeting was also attended by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO), CENRO, members from the law enforcement authorities (Marines, PCG, and PNP), and barangay officials.





COORDINATION MEETING AT BRGY. CASIAN,, TAYTAY, PALAWAN

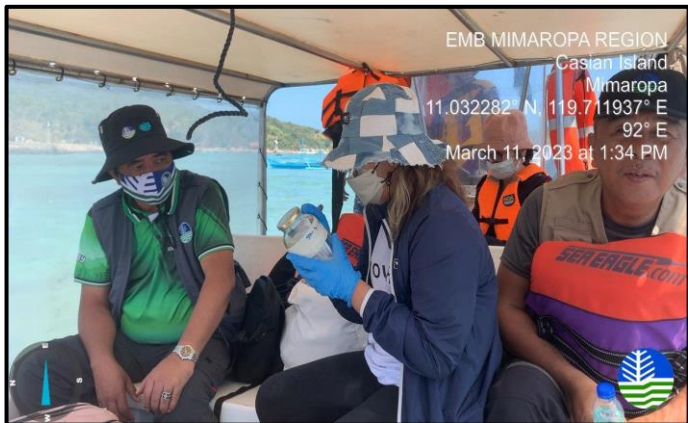




OIL SLUDGE COLLECTED AT BRGY. CASIAN,, TAYTAY, PALAWAN



WATER QUALITY SAMPLING AT BRGY. CASIAN, TAYTAY, PALAWAN



ENRO Compound, Brgy. Suqui, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

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After the water sampling was concluded, Ms. Enrile and Ms. Almorfe then attended a meeting with the barangay officials of Brgy. Casian,Taytay, Palawan and law enforcement authorities regarding the measures to be taken to address the oil spill in the barangay.



In addition, Engr. Bea Sabado, Chief – EMS of Roxas, Palawan attended a coordination meeting with the Local Government Unit of Roxas, Palawan, PCG, and Banwa Private Island Resort pertaining to the measures which will be taken to contain and mitigate the oil spill in the municipality in case it reaches the municipality.



Therafter, our Chief, PEMU – Occidental Mindoro conducted an initial coordination with LGU – Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro regarding the monitoring and preparations to be done in case the municipality will be affected by the oil spill. The meeting was done based on the dispersion model issued by UP – MSI identifying Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro as one of the municipalities which might be affected by the oil spill in the coming days.





Initiative of LGU Cuyo , for installation of Improvised spill booms using clothes and other floating materials to protect mangroves and Marine Protected areas in Cuyo Palawan through the help of PCG and LGUs

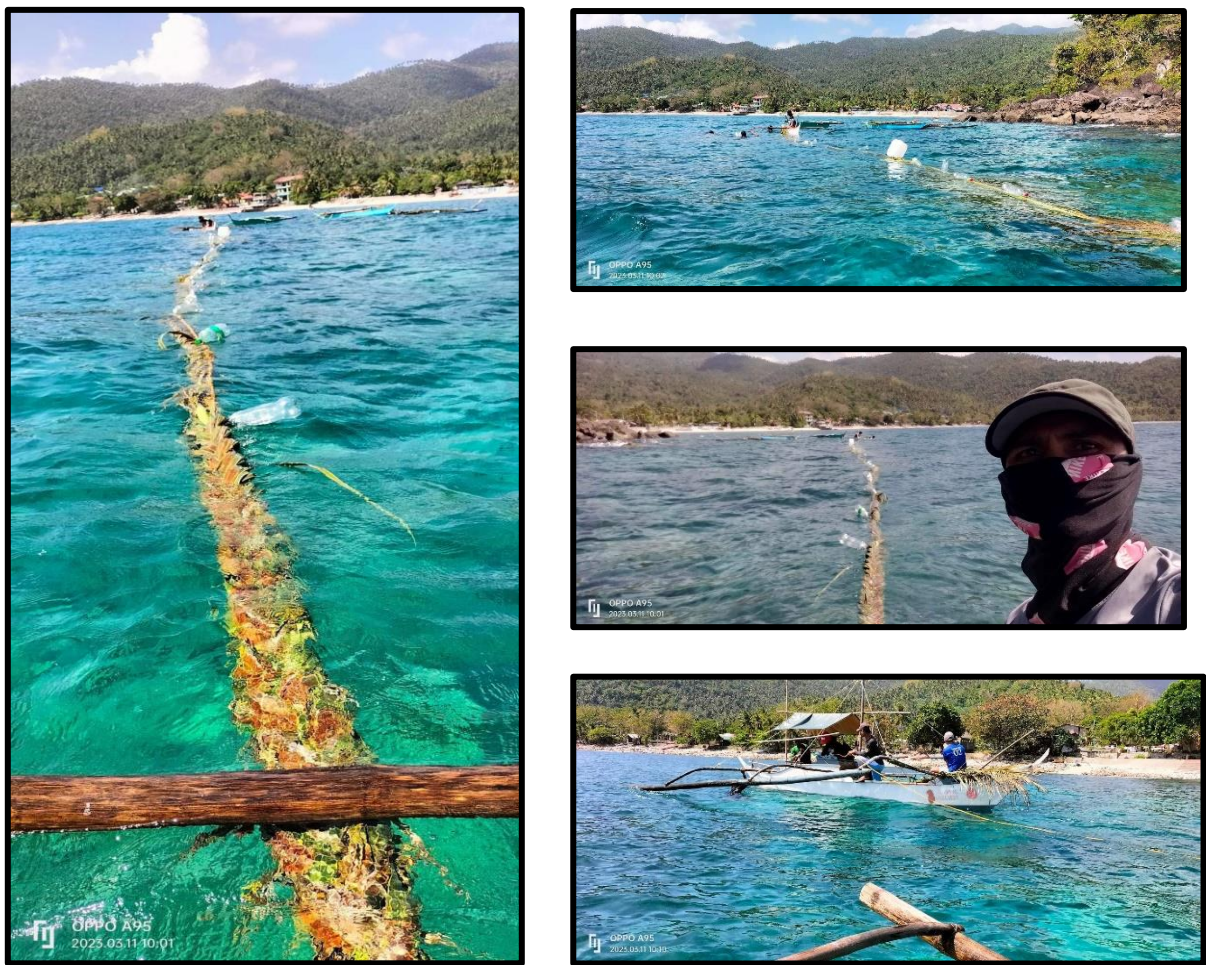


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Installation of Improvised Spill Booms  
Initiative of LGU PINAMALAYAN through the help of fisherfolks at Brgy Ranzo,  
Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro



In addition, our Chief, PEMU – Occidental Mindoro and technical staff from PEMU – Occidental Mindoro also lead the water quality sampling in Gloria and Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro.

Water Quality Sampling in Gloria and Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro lead by Mr. Alexander Coden and technical staff from the Provincial Environmental Management Unit – Occidental Mindoro







We will be providing additional updates as soon as verified information becomes available.

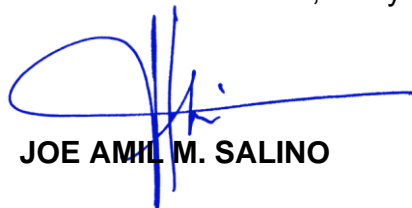
#### IV. WAYS AHEAD

This Office will be providing the official results of the water quality sampling conducted in Brgy. Casian, Taytay, Palawan as soon as validation of the laboratory results has been completed.

Likewise, this Office commits to continue providing technical assistance in all the clean-up operations, support the affected barangays, and assist the concerned LGUs in the safe collection, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes.

This Office shall continue to monitor the situation and apprise the Undersecretary on all the latest situation development.

For the Undersecretary's information, reference and further instructions, if any.

  
**JOE AMIL M. SALINO**

**Copy furnished:**

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