



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 : 10 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:

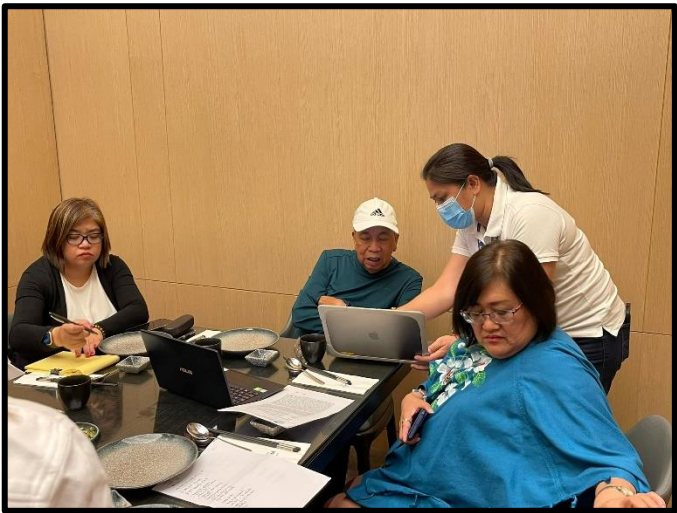
Date of Collection	Municipality	Barangay	Amount of Waste Collected
March 07, 2023	Pola, Oriental Mindoro	Calima	6 drums
		Batohan	4 drums
		Misong	11.5 drums
March 09, 2023	Pola, Oriental Mindoro	Calima	7 drums (10 AM)
			3 drums (5 PM)

On the evening of 09 March 2023, Ms. Jane Dumenden and Ms. Kathryn Maevelyn Tupasi from EMB – MIMAROPA Region’s Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division together with Ms. Lormelyn Claudio, Regional Executive Director, DENR – MIMAROPA Region, attended a meeting with Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, Jr. from the Lone District





of Dasmariñas and Chairperson on Committee on Natural Resources regarding the oil spill incident in Oriental Mindoro.



Moreover, our Chief, PEMU – Oriental Mindoro also received on behalf of EMB – MIMAROPA Region, the donation from Prime Energy Resources Development Corporation consisting of fifty-four (54) pieces of UN Drums (210 Liters) and ten (10) tote tanks (1 cu. meter).

On 10 March 2023, this Office participated in the simultaneous coastal clean-up activities in Pola, Oriental Mindoro. Our technical teams from PEMU – Oriental and Occidental Mindoro also provided technical assistance on the proper collection, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes collected during the clean-up.







**CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS AT BRGY. CALIMA, POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO**





The undersigned also participated in the coordination meeting with DSWD regarding the cash for work program for fisherfolks affected by the oil spill.



Thereafter, the undersigned, together with Engr. Pablito Estorque, Chief of EMB – MIMAROPA Region's Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division, Alexander Coden, Chief, PEMU – Occidental Mindoro and Maximo Landrito, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services, DENR MIMAROPA Region held an audience with Brgy. Captain Molina of Brgy. Tagumpay, Pola, Oriental Mindoro regarding the updates being taken by our Office in connection with the oil spill incident.





After the meeting, the undersigned then proceeded to the coastal barangay of Brgy. Tagumpay to monitor the updates and situation of the workers and volunteers on the ground.



As of date, residents from Brgy. Aplaya and Balatasan, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro collected and made an improvised oil spill boom using coconut coirs.







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

#### IV. WAYS AHEAD

This Office will also be conducting water quality sampling in certain locations in Agutaya, Palawan which were identified as areas with oil slicks sightings, as soon as weather conditions permit us and clearance has been given by the Philippine Coast Guard for us to proceed. Furthermore, this Office will also be having a coordination meeting with DENR, EMB – CO, EMB – Region 6 and Philippine Coast Guard for the possibility of filing of appropriate cases against the vessel owner.

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

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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