

March 20, 2023

Hon. Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga
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Quezon City, Metro Manila, 1100
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<http://ncr.denr.gov.ph/>

Dear Ma'am Loyzaga,

I am here to write a letter regarding the incident about the oil spill happened last February 28, 2023 in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. It has been reported that 800, 000 liters of industrial oil has been spilled in the said area which causes tons of living organisms including the island province, residents, tourists, and even marine biodiversity to be affected due to the ship, MT Princess Empress, being submerged in the sea. It is also reported that according to Jennifer Cruz, mayor of the coastal town of Pola, that this incident heavily caused danger towards more than 50 residents for they have been experiencing already ill and some symptoms such as cough dizziness, eye irritation and fever. This is due to the unwell smell of the oil spilled in the area which had already been reached in the beachfront property and sticking to the sand. Moreover, at least 21 protected marine areas such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves could be harmed if this incident was not been address immediately. According to Pola Mayor Cruz, mangroves were already covered by the oil which is very alarming for its role as preventing coastal erosions and offer protection from extreme weather events like typhoon.

It would be a month already this March 28 yet this incident is still prominent. According to the news, as of today, over 1000 sacks of waste was collected from shorelines since March 1. Some articles said that the ship, MT Princess Empress, is not a brand new ship that's why this incident is possible to happen. There are several living organisms being affected then this should be addressed seriously. Some other countries such as Japan already gave help to our country to solve this incident. I hope our government also will take action towards this not just simply cleaning the affected area but also give importance to the health of the affected individuals. Some of them already experiencing some symptoms where they should be taken care by giving proper place to stay for a while and food and medicine for their ill. Another problem is that our country is still under control towards everyone's health due to this COVID 19 where the virus is still prominent in our country.



I know this incident is not related to the field of what I am taking today as a college student but as a Pharmacy student, it is the health and wellness of the residents is what I am concern that is why I am writing this letter. Everyone's life and health is the utmost important compared to others for it would not be replaced one's it is taken away from us. Others might say that this issue is just oil spill not knowing that the number one victim in this incident are those poorest of the poor in those area. Those people such as fishermen who are working hard in the sea just to earn money for the needs of their family. Cleaning up the whole area will take months before it is safe to harvest fishes as a source of food so it would also take months for those fishermen to go back to their work. It would be hard for them now to have a money for their daily needs. In that case, this incident should be solve as soon as possible and those people related to the incident such as the company should pay for the cost it take for it is not just the residents are the only affected but also those living organisms inside the sea. It would be great if there is a call for volunteers to clean up the area or to donate some food and medicine for the affected ones. I know there are already actions that has been started to address this incident and I appreciate but I hope this incident will be soon solve for everyone will go back to their lives and live their life in a normal state again.

Regards,
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