

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RES. NO. 829



Introduced by Hon. Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr.

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION
REGARDING THE OIL SPILL FROM AND SINKING OF MT PRINCESS EMPRESS**

WHEREAS, on 28 February 2022, MT Princess Empress capsized in the waters off Naujan, Oriental Mindoro that spilled 800,000 liters of industrialized fuel affecting ten municipalities in Oriental Mindoro and may possibly affect coastal areas in Palawan, Antique, and Romblon.

WHEREAS, additionally, the oil spill might affect 20,000 hectares of coral reef, 9,900 hectares of mangroves, and 6,000 hectares of seagrass and could “possibly coat the marine habitats and animals...which can clog the gills of fish and marine invertebrates...damage the feathers of bird and fur of marine mammals.

WHEREAS, the vessel MT Princess Empress is an oil products tanker which is only one-year old considering that it was built in 2022.

WHEREAS, Oceana, an international environment group, “called on the state to immediately implement mechanisms and actions to stop further damage on the marine environment, fisheries resources and livelihood in the affected Verde Island Passage which is the ‘center of the center of marine biodiversity in the world’” and to “start the investigation and testing on the extent of contamination...immediate assistance of the local fisherfolk dependent on the affected body of water.”

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation, regarding the oil spill and the sinking of the one-year old MT Princess Empress which has already caused severe damage in Oriental Mindoro and it could possibly reach other coastal islands including Palawan, Antique and Romblon.

March 6, 2023.

HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.
Representative
Lone District of the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite