



## MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

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

DATE : 20 April 2023

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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.

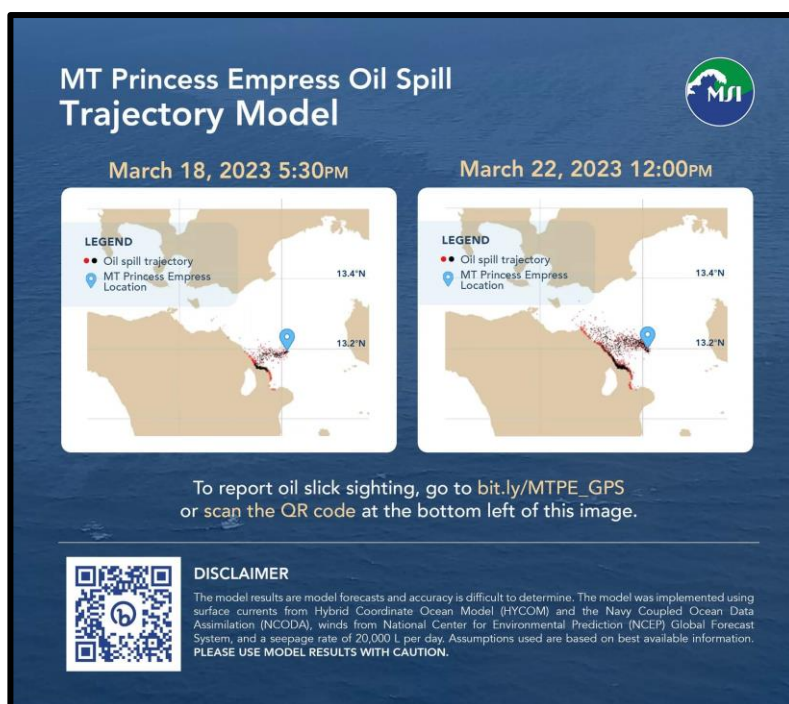
Furthermore, the Provincial Health Office – Oriental Mindoro directed the local residents to temporarily cease from participating in coastal clean-up operations due to lack of protective gears.

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.

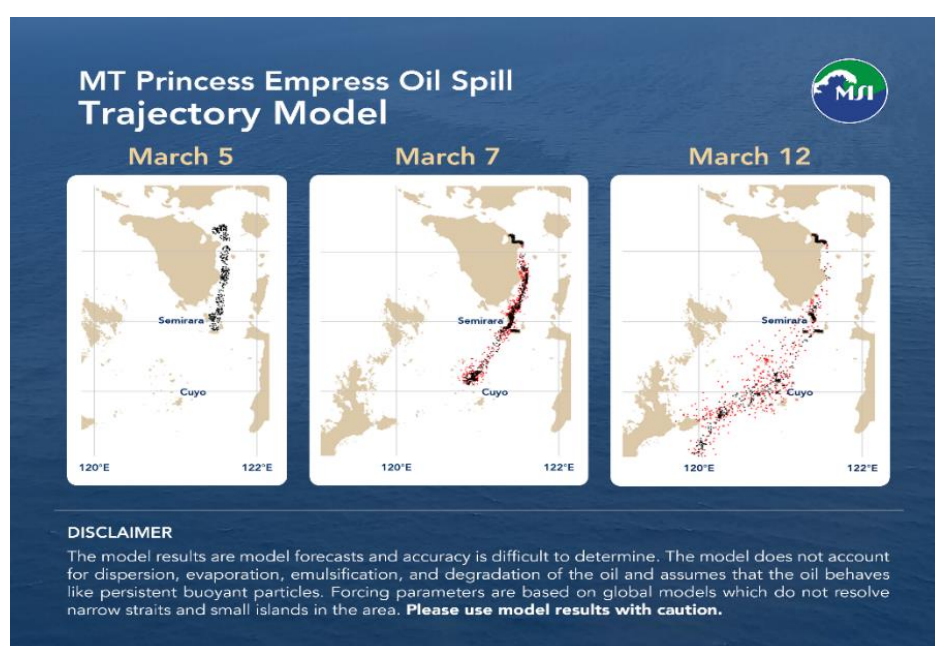
On 18 March 2023, the University of the Philippines – Marine Science (UP-MSI) posted an update on their Facebook page stating that the Oil spill trajectories show northward shift with Calapan possibly receiving most of the oil from March 20-22,2023.



The latest satellite image on March 15 shows that the oil is still leaking out of the sunken vessel. Oil spill trajectories for March 16-22 show a northward shift with Calapan possibly receiving most of the oil from March 20-22. Westward currents along the coast of northern Mindoro towards the Verde Island Passage are forecasted to be more pronounced for this period. The Amihan winds, which contained most of the oil to the coasts of Nauhan and Pola in the previous weeks, are now more variable, allowing the oil to spread northwards. It is critical to stop the seepage before the end of the Amihan season, otherwise more critical biodiversity areas along the Verde Island Passage may be affected.

## PALAWAN

On 05 March 2023, UP-MSI posted an update wherein based on their forecast, it was projected that the oil spill will reach Cuyo Islands and get closer to northern Palawan in about a week's time. The projected trajectory of the oil slick is shown in the images for March 7 and March 12, and initialized with spill locations in the image for March 5.



According to the model, the projected spill will continue due southwest to Cuyo Group of Islands (as seen in the image for March 7) and will get closer to northern Palawan mainland in about a week's time (as seen in the image for March 12).

On the same day, the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office of Agutaya, Palawan (MDRRMO) has confirmed that presence of oil slicks has been sighted at Brgy. Concepcion and Algeciras in Agutaya, Palawan.

Subsequently, 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.

On 12 March 2023, this Office received a copy of the Situational Reports from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) - Palawan dated 11 and 12 March 2023 on the preparedness for oil spill response of the province.

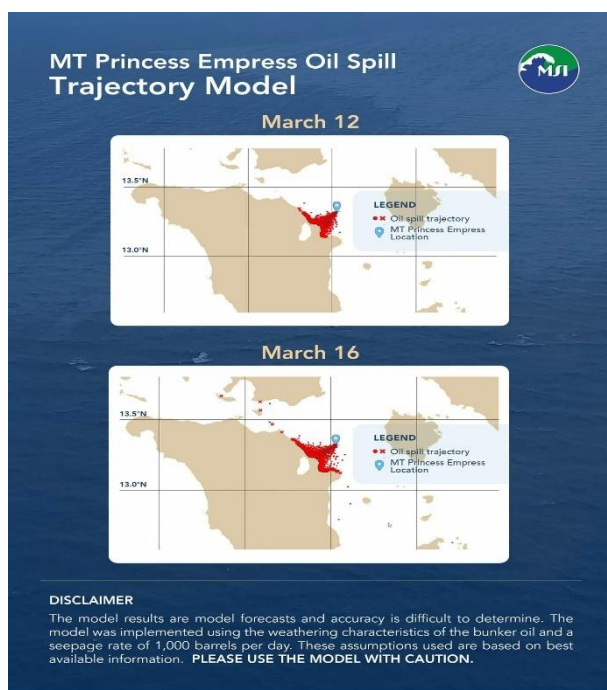


Based on their report, Brgys. Concepcion and Algeciras in Agutaya, Palawan have been cleared of oil spill sightings since March 8, 2023.

The PDRRMO also confirmed the presence of traces of brownish oil in the shorelines of the following barangays and sitios in Taytay, Palawan, to wit:

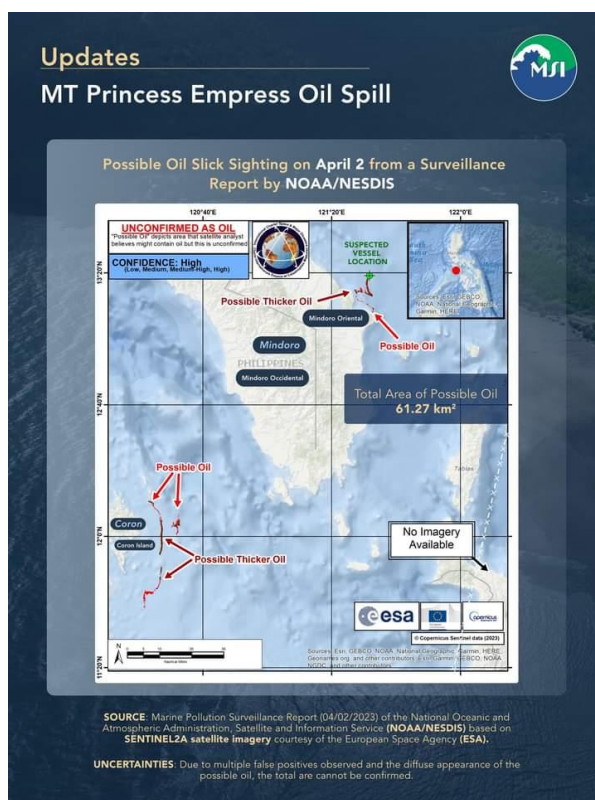
1. Sitio Amogis
2. Sitio Calumpang
3. Brgy. Calawag
4. Brgy. Biton

At around 4:00 PM of 12 March 2023, UP – MSI posted an update wherein according to their trajectory model, it is predicted that the oil spill will reach the Verde Island Passage due to weakening Amihan.



The recent simulation focusing on the area of the tanker's location for March 10 to 16 shows that with continuous seepage of oil, most of the oil will end up along Naujan coast and Pola Bay. However, due to the weakening Amihan, some of the oil may flow northwards towards the Verde Island Passage by March 16, affecting coastal areas of Calapan, Verde Island, and some parts of Batangas.

On 03 April 2023, UP-MSI posted an update regarding the possible oil slick sighting dated 02 April 2023. It was from the Surveillance Report of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Satellite and Information Services (NOAA/NESDIS).



According to the report, possible oil was seen near the location of the suspected vessel at Oriental Mindoro, Coron and Coron Island. The total area of possible oil slick was 61.27km<sup>2</sup>.

## II. 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.

On 21 March 2023, A virtual meeting took place with Asec. Gilbert Gonzales, Atty. Janice Regoso, Atty. John Edward Ang, and representatives of Legal Units from EMB Regions 4A, 4B, and 6 to discuss the potential cases to be filed against RDC REIELD MARINE SERVICES INC.

On the same day, Ms. Maevelyn Kathryn Tupasi, Ms. Jane Dumenden, Ms. Ashley Denise Adora Ignacio and Engr. Buena Fe Rioflorido attended the virtual meeting with DOH regarding the drinking water quality assessment.

On 22 March 2023, a special PAB Meeting was attended by the PAB Secretariat, Board Members, the undersigned and legal officers and staff of EMB Regions 4A, 4B, and 6 regarding the proposed legal actions to be taken against RDC REIELD MARIINE SERVICES AND TRADING INC. in relation to the oil spill incident.

On 24 March 2023, meeting with Philippine Coast Guard and Harbor Star was held regarding the checklist of shoreline assessment.

On 29 March 2023, A Hybrid Technical Conference was conducted between EMB Regional Offices (Region 6, 4A, and 4B) and representatives from RDC REIELD MARINE SERVICES INC.

During the Technical Conference, it was agreed that RDC REIELD MARINE SERVICES INC. shall submit copies of the following documents until Monday, 03 April 2023:

1. Comprehensive Clean Up Plan
2. Memorandum of Agreement among RDC REIELD MARINE SERVICES INC., Harbor Star, and TSD Contractor.
3. Safety Data Sheet
4. Certificate of Treatment of Waste

In addition, RDC REIELD MARINE SERVICES INC. shall submit a Position Paper within fifteen (15) days from the conduct of Technical Conference.

On 03 April 2023, RDC REIELD MARINE SERVICES INC. submitted copies of the following documents in compliance to their commitments during the Technical Conference, to wit:

1. Safety Data Sheet
2. Hazardous Waste Management Plan
3. Shoreline Clean-up Plan for Oriental Mindoro

On the other hand, RCD REIELD MARINE SERVICES INC. failed to submit some documents.

On 17 April 2023, Atty. Alessa Ismael, Engr. Dan Goodwin Borja and PEMU – Occidental Mindoro Personnel attended the Online Meeting on the Formulation of Preparedness Action Regarding Oil Spill Incident organized by the Occidental Mindoro Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office.

During the meeting, Engr. Borja provided a general situational overview of the oil spill incident and actions taken by the Office.

On 20 April 2023, Engr. Rochelle E. Padirayon and Engr. Buena Fe A. Rioflorido attended the online technical sub-group meeting for the discussion of waste management plan. It was also attended by the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), DENR and BFAR.

During the meeting, it was discussed that Harbor Star will submit detailed management plan for the hazardous waste materials collected in the affected Regions.

## **ORIENTAL MINDORO**

On 20 March 2023, Far East Fuel Corporation was able to haul and transport 64 drums of oil waste and oil contaminated materials sourced from Pola, Oriental Mindoro.





On the same day, Engr. Rochelle Padirayon, Chief, Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Monitoring Section - EMB MIMAROPA, lead the cash for work orientation meeting held at Brgys. Batuhan and Misong, in Pola, Oriental Mindoro.

### **CASH FOR WORK ORIENTATION (BRGY. MISONG, POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO)**



### **CASH FOR WORK ORIENTATION (BRGY. BATUHAN, POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO)**



On 31 March 2023, the Technical Staff of EMB MIMAROPA conducted investigation regarding the hauling activity did by Harbor Star Shipping Line Services, Inc. in the barangays of Pola, Oriental Mindoro. The hauled oil-contaminated drums were transported to the temporary storage area located at PPA-Pola Port.

The observation during the hauling activity, to wit:

- The temporary storage area has no roof thus the drums were directly exposed to the sunlight. Currently, dried coconut palms were placed above the drums;
- Some of the drums were deformed and has an oil leak at the lid of the drum;
- Some of the recycled drums used in storing hazardous waste by Harbor Star Shipping Services, Inc. still has its original labels which contains other



GHS Symbols which was not appropriate for the proper labelling of hazardous waste contained.; and

- A distinct odor of rotten eggs can be smelled near the temporary storage area.

Thus, the following were the recommendations:

- To immediately transport the collected hazardous waste at the temporary storage facility to an accredited Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) Facility to prevent further spillage of oil and possible unwanted reactions of the stored hazardous waste;
- Removed the previous labels in the recycled drums and replace with proper labels for the appropriate hazardous waste; and
- Install signages on all corners of the facility informing the community on the possible health hazards of the hazardous waste.

On 04 April 2023, PCG, Harbor Star, Malayan and International Tanker Owners Pollution Feredation Limited (ITOPH) conducted meeting for the updates on the collected hazardous waste. It was conducted at PDRRMO/ICP, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.



On 06 April 2023, Genetron International Marketing, hazardous waste transporter, started to haul all the drums and tonner bags in the temporary storage area at Philippine Ports Authority (PPA)-Pola, Oriental Mindoro. The drums containing hazardous waste will be treated by Separ Environmental Corporation located at 600 3rd St., Banaban, Angat, Bulacan.



On 07 April 2023, EMB MIMAROPA Region facilitated and monitored the hauling of oil contaminated materials at the collection point of Brgy. Tagumpay and in various barangays of Pola, Oriental Mindoro. Representatives from Philippine Coast Guard, LGU Pola, ITOPF, and Harbor Star were present during the activity.

Details of the Hauling Activity						
Transporter	Truck No.	Plate No.	No. of Drums/ tonner bags hauled	Total Weight (kg)	Location of the Hauling activity	Treater
Genetron International Marketing	1	AVA 4201	60 drums	7012.3	Temporary Storage Area at PPA Pola Port	Separ Environmental Corporation
	2	AFA 7499	55 drums	6357.7		
	3	NBP 4066	60 drums	6189.4		
	4	NCK 6809	64 drums	5361.2		
	5	TIU 586	62 drums	5800.7		
	6	NAP 6054	30 tonner bags	8130.0		
	7	NBU 7119	23 drums 41 tonner bags	6368.2	Collection point of Brgy. Tagumpay, Brgy. Misong, Brgy. Bayanan, Brgy. Puting Cacao, Brgy. Calima and Brgy. Batuhan in Pola, Oriental Mindoro	

A total of 324 drums (275 plastic drums, 49 steel drums) and 71 tonner bags were hauled by Genetron International Marketing.

Involved parties and witnesses from various agencies participated in the signing of manifest forms for the transport of hazardous wastes from Pola using the 7 wing vans of Genetron International Marketing.

### HAULING IN BRGY. TAGUMPAY





HAULING IN BRGY. PUTING CACAO, BRGY. BAYANAN, BRGY. CALIMA AND BRGY. BATUHAN



HAULING IN BRGY. MISONG



TRUCK 1



TRUCK 2



TRUCK 3



TRUCK 4



TRUCK 5



TRUCK 6



TRUCK 7



SIGNING OF MANIFEST FORM





On April 17, 2023, Far East Fuel Corp. collected drums and tonner bags with oil-contaminated materials in various barangays of Pola, Oriental Mindoro. A total of 12 drums and 26 tonner bags were collected and transported to the temporary storage area at Pola Port.

**BARANGAY CALIMA**



**BARANGAY BATUHAN**



**BARANGAY BAYANAN**



**BARANGAY ZONE 1**





## PALAWAN

On 21 March 2023, Ms. Edna Velasco, Chief, Provincial Environmental Management Unit – Palawan, attended the Multi-disciplinary meeting with PENRO – Palawan, PDRRMO, PCSD, PCG, BMB, BFAR, regarding rapid assessment on the effects of oil spill to coastal and marine habitats.

On 22 March 2023, The technical staff of PEMU – Palawan participated in the celebration of World Water Day by conducting coastal clean-up at Kuta Park, Brgy. Poblacion, Taytay, Palawan

On 30 March 2023, PEMU – Palawan personnel lead by Engr. Grizzel Bea Sabado, Chief, EMS – Roxas, Palawan lead the retrieval of oil slicks and oil-contaminated debris, and clean-up activities at Amianan Beach, Casian Island, Taytay, Palawan.

During the operations, the team was able to retrieve more or less three (3) drums of oil-contaminated materials and a handful of oil slicks from the shore. Representatives from the BLGU Casian stated that they were unable to identify the persons responsible for burning the oil slicks and oil-contaminated materials.

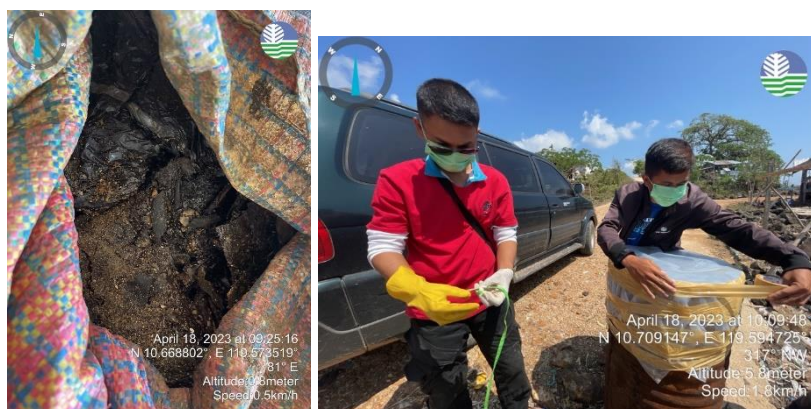
On the same day, the team also travelled to Debangon Island wherein they were able to collect more or less two (2) drums of oil-contaminated materials within the shore. However, because of size of the vessel, the team was only able to transport three (3) drums of oil contaminated materials to the LGU -Taytay Materials Recovery Facility located at Sitio Langayan, Brgy. Poblacion, Taytay, Palawan.

On 04 April 2023, BLGU and LGU Taytay MENRO Office facilitated the transport of the remaining oil contaminated materials from the island to the MRF.

On the same day, MDRRMO, PCG MEP-group, PNP-Maritime, MAO, DENR Cenro and EMB conducted water quality monitoring in Coron, Palawan which were included in the map projected by UP MSI dated 03 April 2023. No sightings of oil were observed during the monitoring.



On 18 April 2023, the team collected 5 kg of oil-contaminated waste from Calawag Proper and transferred it into the drum with half full of oil-contaminated waste in So. Calumpang, Brgy. Calawag, Taytay, and Palawan.



## OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

On 03 April 2023, this Office received a report from LGU of Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro alleging that the oil spill has already reached the coastal area of Ragara Beach, Brgy. Concepcion, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro.

On 04 April 2023, PEMU – Occidental Mindoro Personnel conducted an onsite validation at the coastline of Ragara Beach, Brgy. Concepcion, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro. During the inspection, presence of solidified oil slicks was seen along the coastline of the beach. However, it is recommended to conduct further validation to determine whether the source of the oil slick originated from the sunken MT Princess Empress.

## III. WAYS AHEAD

This Office commits to continue to coordinate with provincial/local government units as regards clean-up operations, water quality sampling, technical assistance in the collection and transporting of hazardous wastes, and cash for work programs for individuals affected by the oil spill.

This Office commits to continuous monitoring and strategize sampling frequency of water quality sampling in areas affected by oil spill.

This Office shall Source apportionment analysis for PM10 filter paper samples collected from Baco Station, Calapan Station, and Naujan Station of the BCN Airshed.

This Office shall monitor the implementation of the Clean-up Plan submitted by Harbor Star specifically on the hauling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste.

## ROMBLON

This Office shall conduct immediate site inspection at Brgys. Agpanabat, Sablayan, and Agnipa in Romblon, Romblon after this Office received reports of alleged sightings of oil spill and oil contaminated materials within the coastline of Brgys. Agpanabat, Sablayan and Agnipa in the Municipality of Romblon, Romblon. It is also

important to verify whether the source of this alleged oil spill originated from the sunken MT Princess Empress.

This Office shall coordinate with the Philippine Coast Guard and concerned LGUs for the conduct of clean-up activities and immediate installation of spill booms in all waterbodies potentially affected by the oil spill.

## **OCCIDENTAL MINDORO**

This Office shall conduct further validation to determine whether the source of the oil slick originated from the oil spill caused by the sunken MT Princess Empress.

This Office shall coordinate with the Philippine Coast Guard and concerned LGUs for the conduct of clean-up activities and immediate installation of spill booms in all waterbodies potentially affected by the oil spill.

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

  
**JOE AMIL M. SALINO**

***Copy furnished:***

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