

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**House Resolution No. 835**



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Introduced as Urgent by:  
**HON. ALFONSO V. UMALI JR.**

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**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SUFFICIENCY OF OUR MARITIME LAWS AND SAFETY STANDARDS, AND OTHER RELATED MEASURES TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY OF SEA CARRIERS INVOLVED IN MARITIME ACCIDENTS, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RECENT OIL SPILL CAUSED BY A CAPSIZED OIL TANKER OFF COAST OF ORIENTAL MINDORO**

**WHEREAS**, the Article II, Section 5 of the Philippine Constitution categorically states that “the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of a democracy”;

**WHEREAS**, maritime transport plays an indispensable role in ensuring an integrated and coordinated transport network for an archipelagic country like the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, no less than the President, His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. declared that it is high time to make the Philippine Maritime Industry our top priority;

**WHEREAS**, history reveals that from time to time, maritime accidents happen either due to human fault, negligence, unseaworthiness, or due to inclement weather conditions, which result to different kinds of damages, loss of property, and even loss of lives;

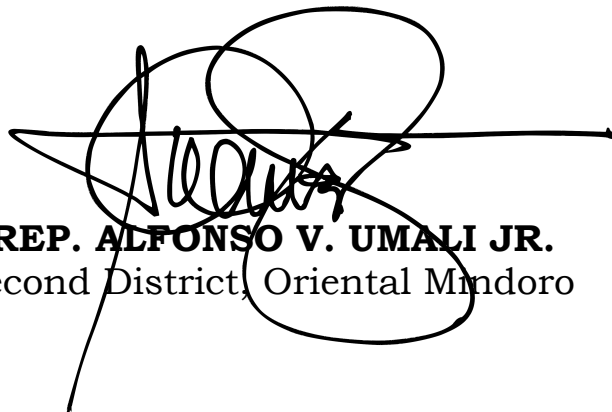
**WHEREAS**, several accounts and statements of victims of prior sea accidents still call for justice and accountability as they have not received any indemnification from the sea carriers involved in mishap;

**WHEREAS**, on February 28, 2023, an oil tanker vessel, MT Princess Empress, carrying Eight Hundred Thousand (800,000) liters of Industrial Oil was capsized off coast of Oriental Mindoro. As a consequence, the oil spilled in the waters putting at risk numerous marine protected areas and affecting the livelihood thousands of families and fisherfolks and the health of the general citizenry of Oriental Mindoro;

**WHEREAS**, to ensure protection, public safety and accountability, an investigation and scrutiny of our existing maritime laws, safety standards, and accountability measures relating to such incident is indispensable;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives to request its Committee on Transportation to investigate the sufficiency of our Maritime Laws and Safety Standards and other related measures to ensure accountability of sea carriers involved in maritime accidents.

Adopted.



**REP. ALFONSO V. UMALI JR.**  
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