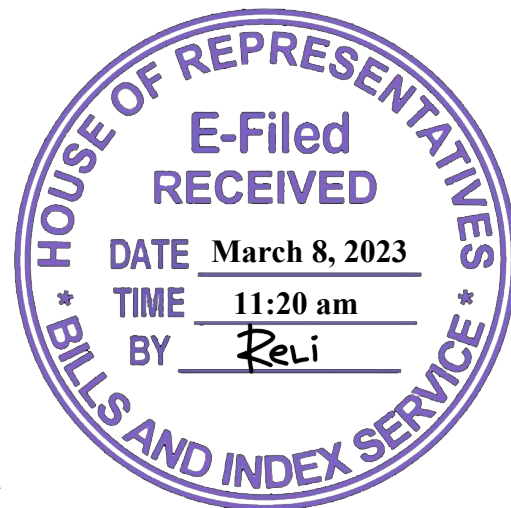




Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 842



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**INTRODUCED BY REP. TEODORICO “NONONG” T. HARESCO, JR.**

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**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY, THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OIL SPILL IN ORIENTAL MINDORO AND NEARBY PROVINCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE TO THE MARINE RESOURCES, HEALTH, TOURISM, AND LIVELIHOOD, AND RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO REHABILITATE COASTAL AREAS, PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, AND MITIGATE EFFECTS OF THE DISASTER**

**WHEREAS**, on February 28, 2023, MT Princess Empress, a vessel carrying 800,000 liters of industrial oil was capsized in the waters off Naujan, Oriental Mindoro due to engine overheating, causing a distressing incident of oil spill in the vicinity<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the devastating effects of the oil spill incident, the province of Oriental Mindoro has declared a state of calamity in 76 coastal barangays across nine of its municipalities, which include Naujan, Pola, Pinamalayan, Gloria, Bansud, Bongabong, Roxas, Mansalay, and Bulalacao, as of March 6, 2023<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), more than 3,100 hectares of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the province of Oriental Mindoro alone could be in danger of being damaged by the oil spill<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has reported on March 4, 2023 that the oil spill has also reached the shores of Caluya, Antique, roughly a hundred kilometers away from Naujan, Oriental Mindoro<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/862501/oil-tanker-off-mindoro-oriental-totally-sinks/story/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/luzon/oriental-mindoro-declares-state-calamity-coastal-barangays-oil-spill-march-6-2023/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1738139/oil-spill-puts-oriental-mindoro-town-under-calamity-state>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/3/4/Oil-spill-in-Oriental-Mindoro-spreads-to-Antique.html>

**WHEREAS**, according to the latest report from the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), the DENR forecasts that the projected spill will continue due southwest in the direction of northern Palawan and will reach Cuyo Islands in a week's time<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, while the possibility of the oil spill reaching Boracay in the town of Malay, Aklan depends on the drift of the winds in the area, the local government of Malay has declared a state of heightened or blue alert on March 6, 2023 to preemptively implement protection measures against the spreading oil spill from the sunken MT Princess Empress<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has already expressed concern over the oil spill incident and its grave impact on the tourism industry, including disruptions in the livelihood of the affected communities, tourism-dependent businesses, and recreational activities<sup>7</sup>;

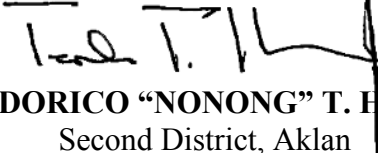
**WHEREAS**, in a statement on March 4, 2023, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has declared the government's commitment to provide assistance to Filipinos affected by the oil spill incident<sup>8</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of the government to protect our marine resources, and the health and welfare of the public, particularly the communities who are heavily affected by the recent oil spill in Oriental Mindoro and its neighboring provinces;

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that we urgently provide assistance to Filipinos in need and address the oil spill problem to ensure that our citizens and natural resources are safe, resilient, and free from harm;

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES***, to direct the Committee on Ecology, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Tourism to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the oil spill in Oriental Mindoro and nearby provinces for the purposes of determining the extent of damage to the marine resources, health, tourism, and livelihood, and recommending appropriate measures to rehabilitate coastal areas, provide assistance to affected communities and mitigate effects of the disaster.

*Adopted,*

  
**REP. TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.**  
Second District, Aklan

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/03/07/news/regions/mindoro-oil-spill-to-reach-palawan/1881550>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/visayas/malay-aklan-heightened-alert-oil-spill-march-6-2023/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/3/6/Oriental-Mindoro-oil-spill-reaches-tourist-spots-DOT-.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/03/04/news/marcos-vows-assistance-to-oil-spill-affected-mindoro-towns/1881253>