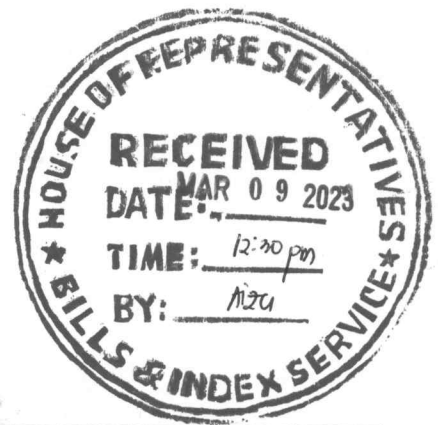


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. **847**



SPONSORED BY:
REPRESENTATIVE KHYMER ADAN T. OLASO
1st District, Zamboanga City

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT AND INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SURROUNDING EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE SINKING OF *M/T PRINCESS EMPRESS* ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023 AND RESULTED IN THE WORST OIL SPILL IN THE HISTORY OF PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2023, *M/T Princess Empress*, owned by RDC Reield Marine Services (RDC), while en route to Iloilo from SL Gas Harbor Terminal in Limay, Bataan, and carrying with it 800,000 liters of industrial oil allegedly experienced engine trouble and capsized in the waters off Naujan town in Oriental Mindoro;¹

WHEREAS, the sinking resulted in the spillage of emulsified black and thick industrial oil which posed health hazards to affected residents and severely disrupted the livelihood of more than 15,000 fishermen, resorts, and other business establishments, the resolution stated²;

WHEREAS, a total of 77 coastal villages in the Municipalities of Pola, Naujan, Pinamalayan, Gloria, Bansud, Bongabong, Roxas, Mansalay and Bulalacao were affected by the oil spill according to the resolution which was passed by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Oriental Mindoro³;

WHEREAS, according to the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI), the oil spill might affect about 20,000 hectares of coral reefs, 9,900 hectares of mangroves and 6,000 hectares of seagrass in the provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Antique and Palawan, depending on its trajectory⁴;

WHEREAS, the environmental damage, displacement of more than 15 thousand families and the resultant loss of livelihood to fishermen as a result of this tragedy is unquantifiable;

WHEREAS, its grave impact on the tourism industry, including disruptions in the livelihood of the affected communities, tourism-dependent businesses, and recreational activities is also immeasurable;⁵

WHEREAS, *M/T Princess Empress* is covered by a \$1 billion Protection and Indemnity Insurance for “every incident” including an oil spill;⁶

¹ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/luzon/marina-official-says-mt-princess-empress-insured>

² <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1739197/oil-spill-puts-8-more-towns-in-oriental-mindoro-in-calamity-state>

³ Ibid.


⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/luzon/marina-official-says-mt-princess-empress-insured/>

WHEREAS, *M/T Princess Empress* is an Oil Products Tanker which was built only in 2022 and putting the blame on the “engine trouble” that resulted in its capsizing raises more questions than answers on why this biggest environmental tragedy happened;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED TO URGE THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT AND INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SURROUNDING EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE SINKING OF *M/T PRINCESS EMPRESS* ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023 AND RESULTED IN THE WORST OIL SPILL IN THE HISTORY OF PHILIPPINES.



KHYMER ADAN T. OLASO
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