



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office**  
**MIMAROPA Region**  
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November 24, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** : The Regional Executive Director  
DENR MIMAROPA Region  
1515 L&S Bldg., Roxas Blvd.,  
Ermita, Manila

**FROM** : The Provincial Environment and  
Natural Resources Officer

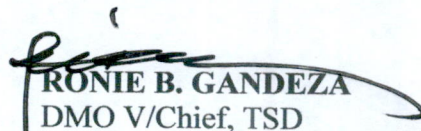
**SUBJECT** : **REPORT ON THE HALF-SUBMERGED VIETNAMESE  
VESSEL (VIET HAI STAR) IN BALABAC, PALAWAN**

Respectfully endorsing the report from Mr. Leonard T. Caluya, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) - Brooke's Point, Palawan, relative to the half-submerged Vietnamese-flagged vessel (Viet Hai Star) in the vicinity waters of Balabac, Palawan. The said vessel reportedly ran aground on November 21, 2023 while en route to Cagayan De Oro City from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Moreover, CENRO-Brooke's Point has been instructed to continue monitoring the incident particularly the reported oil spill/sheen and submit progress reports on the matter anytime.

For your information, perusal, and further instruction.

For the PENRO

  
**RONIE B. GANDEZA**  
DMO V/Chief, TSD  
In-Charge, Office of the PENRO



November 23, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR :** The Regional Executive Director  
DENR- MIMAROPA Region  
1515 L&S Building  
Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

**THRU :** The Provincial Environment and  
Natural Resources Officer  
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

**FROM :** The Community Environment and  
Natural Resources Officer

**SUBJECT :** **HALF-SUBMERGED VIETNAMESE VESSEL (VIET HAI STAR)  
IN BALABAC, PALAWAN**

This pertains to the half-submerged Vietnamese-flagged vessel (Viet Hai Star) in the vicinity waters off Balabac, Palawan. The said vessel ran aground at approximately 810 yards off Balabac Port on November 21, 2023 while on their way to Cagayan De Oro City from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, loaded with 4,000 tons of rice.

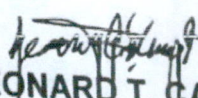
The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Philippine National Police Maritime Group (PNP MARIG) immediately launched a joint search and rescue (SAR) team and have rescued the 17 Vietnamese crew.

The PCG's Marine Environmental Protection Unit (MEPU) in Palawan conducted an oil spill assessment within the vicinity waters and reported that as of 7:00 o'clock in the morning, November 23, 2023, the vessel was fully flooded due to high and rough seas overnight and now settled on a muddy and rocky area of Calandorang Bay in Balabac. Further, it was noticed that there are oil sheens within the vicinity waters, as the subject vessel was carrying 29,000 liters of automotive diesel oil (ADO).

Please be informed that the PCG-MEPU started laying out oil spill booms to control the incident and the PCG-Special Operations Group (SOG) divers are conducting an underwater inspection to assess the vessel's status.

This Office will continue to monitor the situation in Balabac in coordination with PCG, PNP-MARIG and our DENR-CENRO Brooke's Point Monitoring Station in Balabac.

For your information, record, and further instruction.

  
LEONARD T. CALUYA