

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 449

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Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

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**A RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL TO CONVENE TO ADDRESS THE OIL SPILL IN SEMIRARA, ANTIQUE AND CONSIDER THE SAME AS URGENT AND OF NATIONAL CONCERN**

**WHEREAS**, on December 18, 2005, Power Barge 106 of the National Power Corporation (Napocor) ruptured after encountering huge waves and strong winds while en route from Masbate to San Jose, Occidental Mindoro;

**WHEREAS**, Napocor's Power Barge 106 was carrying an estimated 891,000 liters of oil and it ran aground, 200 meters off the shores of Sitio Bobog, Barangay Semirara;

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 355,000 liters of bunker fuel has so far contaminated 71 out of 236 hectares of mangrove forests on Semirara, and the toxic oil slick now stretches over 40 square kilometers, a five-kilometer long band of death blankets at the Semirara shoreline;

**WHEREAS**, the Coast Guard task force and local folks have been manually scooping up contaminated material and putting in sacks to be placed in a temporary dumpsite in the island to prevent further spread of the oil slick;

**WHEREAS**, without a waterproof membrane in place, there is a danger that toxic crude will seep into Semirara's groundwater and affect the livelihood of the locals;

**WHEREAS**, the oil spill is expected to adversely affect the livelihood of the local fishermen because the island's marine sanctuaries have been contaminated, the coral reefs, seaweed farms, and other marine habitats have been damaged as well;

**WHEREAS**, the oil spill is taking its toll on the health condition of concerned residents as locals are now complaining of headaches and dizziness due to prolonged daily exposure to oil fumes;

**WHEREAS**, the oil spill is also threatening nearby coastlines and premiere tourist destinations such as Boracay which is barely 36 nautical miles away, and other vital biological corridors such as the Tablas Strait and the Visayan Sea, a major fishery area;

**WHEREAS**, the inaction or the slow remediation work of the oil spill clean-up over the past two months already seeped down to about two feet into the upper sediment layer along the coast and simple surface clean-up may no longer be sufficient to rid the shoreline of oil and tar;

**WHEREAS**, barely 10% which amounts to 27, 950 sacks of oil-contaminated debris and 30 drums of oily water collected as of February 8, 2006, efforts of the local government alone is not enough to address this environmental threat;

**RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the Philippines enjoins the National Disaster and Coordinating Council (NDCC) to declare the Semirara Oil Spill a national disaster and consider it of national importance, hence urges the NDCC to address this environmental threat immediately.

**ADOPTED,**



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN