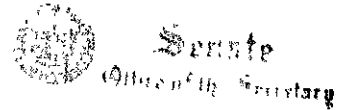


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



13 AUG 29 15:28

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 227

RECEIVED BY: *jin*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OIL SPILL AFFECTING THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Sec. 16 provides that, "the State shall protect and promote the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, a sizeable portion of the Philippine economy relies on the marine resources of the country;

WHEREAS, The *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported in its August 12 2013 issue that the Philippine Coast Guard divers have found a leak in a submerged pipeline of the oil firm Petron Corp. off the coast of Cavite, indicating it was the source of the oil spill that adversely affected at least four coastal towns in the province the previous week;

WHEREAS, according to the article, 90,000 liters of diesel oil had spilled into the waters of the province, and that an aerial survey conducted by the Philippine Coast Guard showed an estimated 500,000 liters of diesel might have leaked into the polluted bay;

WHEREAS, the report stated that the fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakayang Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) called for an independent inquiry into the Cavite oil spill as it accused both Malacañang and the Coast Guard of being "biased for Petron Corporation";

WHEREAS, Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said the oil spill is a "repeat of a July 2010 incident, which adversely affected many fisherfolk families in the same Cavite towns;"

WHEREAS, the Philippines has been a victim of numerous incidents of oil spills, the most destructive of which was the Guimaras oil spill last 11 August 2006 wherein 2 million liters of bunker fuel spilled onto the waters of Guimaras from a vessel which was also a hauler for Petron Corporation;

WHEREAS, an oil spill of such magnitude produces not only the most obvious effect of paralyzing the livelihood of the residents in the affected areas, but also adversely impacts the health of the people and the stability of the environment;

WHEREAS, legislation aimed at protecting the environment, should be strengthened to ensure that 1) the prevention of oil spills in the country is prioritized both by the concerned authorities and oil companies, 2) swift mitigation and remedies would be implemented in the event of another catastrophe, and 3) that those to blame, if found guilty of either gross negligence or active participation to cause the oil spill, would be punished for the act;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported oil spill in the province of Cavite.

Adopted

all

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/icb