

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. **1020**

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT AN OIL SPILL IS AFFECTING THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF SUAL, PANGASINAN

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "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, Presidential Decree No. 600, Section 2 states: "It is hereby declared a national policy to prevent and control the pollution of seas by the dumping of wastes and other matter which create hazards to human health, harm living resources, and marine life; damage amenities; or interfere with the legitimate uses of the sea within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines";

WHEREAS, various news media reported on 27 October that an oil leak from a ruptured pipe in the Team Energy Power Station was detected off the shores of the Sual town, Pangasinan province;

WHEREAS, the leak is said to have alarmed the Sual municipal officials because of its impact on the local bangus industry;

WHEREAS, Sual Mayor Roberto Arcinue reportedly said that an undetermined amount of bunker fuel from the coal-fired power plant spilled into Cabalitian Bay, which hosts 800 milk fish cages;

WHEREAS, Team Energy has confirmed the pipe rupture at the plant and said that the leak has been contained;

WHEREAS, the power producer said further that it had informed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Energy, and is assessing the extent of the leak;

WHEREAS, Arcinue reportedly said the fish cages located in the nearby Baquioen Bay were not harmed by the spill, but Barangay Pangascasan chair Elmer Brudo said the affected area was also where residents gather shell fish;

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

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Congress to strengthen existing laws and ensure their full enforcement to protect and uphold the rights and welfare of communities prone to oil pollution;

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 municipality of Sual, Pangasinan.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  


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