

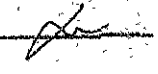
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SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

6 JAN 31 P1:3

**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. R. NO. 430

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Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

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**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN  
INVESTIGATION INTO THE SEMIRARA OIL SPILL**

**WHEREAS,** Last December 18, 2005, the fuel tanks 3 and 4 of the National Power Corporation (NPC) Power Barge 106 ruptured after being thrashed by waves and strong winds due to tropical depression while en route from Masbate to San Jose, Occidental Mindoro;

**WHEREAS,** The incident was reported to have released 200,000 liters of bunker fuel causing an oil spill that stretches to a five-kilometers shoreline along Semirara Island in Antique, threatening to destroy coral reef and marine resources;

**WHEREAS,** The Semirara oil spill is considered the biggest oil spill in the country's history, and has caused massive and widespread environmental damage;

**WHEREAS,** To date, the oil spill was observed to have contaminated 236 hectares of mangrove, 40 sq. kilometers of marine life off the Semirara Island, as well as seagrasses, coral reefs, shellfishes and livelihood seaweed projects;

**WHEREAS,** Semirara is only about 10 kilometers away from the world-famous Boracay Island off Malay, Aklan, one of the country's best tourist destinations;

**WHEREAS,** Cleanup operations are now being undertaken by the NPC, Philippine Coast Guard and the residents albeit at a protracted rate and entailing a cost of about 80 million pesos;

**WHEREAS,** Economic valuation of environmental damages is urgently needed to determine the appropriate damage fee to be charged from the NPC in order to compensate affected stakeholders, as well as fund the rehabilitation and sustainable development of Semirara Island and its vicinity;



WHEREAS,

The University of the Philippines (UP) in the Visayas formed a committee consisting of resource economists and biologists to conduct a research study on the oil spill and 1) assess the status of affected ecosystems, 2) assess the extent of the oil spill and its damage, 3) identify the stakeholders and the impacts on them, 4) estimate economic values – both use and non-use values – of environmental damages caused by the oil spill, and 5) develop a mechanism by which the damage fee will be collected and utilized;

**RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** That the Philippine Senate through the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Committee on Energy immediately investigate, in aid of legislation, the Semirara oil spill, as a matter of utmost environmental urgency

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** That the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Energy constitute at the soonest possible time a special task force, with the special assistance of marine experts from UP in the Visayas, to work on containing the spread of pollution caused by the oil spill in Semirara Island, and to clean up the affected waters.

*Adopted,*

  
EDGARDO J. ANGARA  
Senator