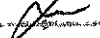


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Third Regular Session*

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO GUIMARAS OIL SPILL WITH THE END VIEW OF DETERMINING THE CAUSE AND THE WAYS TO COMBAT THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE OIL SPILL AND RECOMMENDING POLICY MEASURES TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENT IN THE FUTURE.**

**WHEREAS**, on 11 August 2006, Motor Tanker, Solar 1, carrying two million liters (12,580 barrels) of bunker oil sank in rough seas in the Panay Gulf between Panay and Guimaras Islands. The 1.9 million liters of oil still remained in the tanks of Solar 1. The said tanker was chartered by Petron, the country's largest oil refiner.

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Coast Guard reported that the spill has stretched as far as 19.5 nautical square miles off Guimaras, affecting 16 villages in the island and spread to a national marine reserve.

**WHEREAS**, the spill has hit more than 200 kilometers of coastline, destroyed 454 hectares of mangroves and 58 hectares of seaweed plantations and damaging mangroves swamps and coral reefs containing popular dive sites.

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Coast Guard estimated the spill as the worst in the country's history and would take as long as two (2) years to clean up. It was also claimed that the spill could eventually threaten the west coast of the island of Negros as well as the eastern of Panay and if no physical barriers are placed, it will pass through the Visayan Sea.

**WHEREAS**, Greenpeace International claimed the oil spill damaged about 1,143 hectares of the area.

**WHEREAS**, one of the particular concern of the preservationists is damage to the Taalong Island national marine reserve off the south of Guimaras.

**WHEREAS**, the hardest hit areas so far were the coastal fishing villages of Guimaras. In said place alone up to 40,000 residents were affected by the disaster. More than 4,000 families have been affected and losses to their shrimp industry could reach P50 million. It was also projected that the anchovy industry which is of export quality will incur losses in the amount of P50 million.

**WHEREAS**, it is not only the coastline and the fishing industry that are affected by the disaster but also the tourism industry.

**WHEREAS**, the spill may cause long-term and possibly permanent damage to the environment and livelihoods of thousands of people.

**WHEREAS**, Greenpeace said that the impacts of this oil spill on the environment will linger for years, even decades.

**WHEREAS**, it was the second oil spill in eight (8) months. On December 18 last year, a barge of the state-owned National Power Corporation ran aground off Semirara Island. The Napocor barge spilled 364,000 liters of fuel and ruined vast stretches of the coast of Antique province.

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for policies to protect the marine environment and the millions of Filipino people who rely with it for food and livelihood.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into Guimaras oil spill with the end view of determining the cause and the ways to combat the negative effects of the oil spill and recommending policy measures to prevent similar incident in the future.

Adopted.

  
**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator