


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

6 AUG 23 P 4 43

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No **552**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator M.A. Madrigal

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON THE OIL SPILL IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF GUIMARAS ISLAND THAT ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF THE CHARTERED SHIP OWNER- SUNSHINE MARITIME DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE CHARTERING PARTY - PETRON CORPORATION TO OBSERVE DUE DILIGENCE AND EXERCISE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT THIS ENVIRONMENTAL TRAGEDY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, on 11 August 2006, the 298 ton MT Solar I, bound for Zamboanga Del Sur sank off the southwestern coast of Guimaras Island;

WHEREAS, the sunken MT Solar I was carrying two million liters of bunker oil, of which some 200,000 to 300,000 liters have already leaked out to the sea and thereby polluting 200 kilometers of the coastline in Guimaras Island, resulting in the destruction of local marine resources, and the deprivation of the local communities of sources of food and livelihood;

WHEREAS, the MT Solar I, owned by Sunshine Maritime Development Corporation was chartered by Petron Corporation;

WHEREAS, the sunken oil tanker has been described by Greenpeace as a "ticking ecological time bomb" which continues to wreck havoc on the environment not only in the Province of Guimaras but also in other nearby islands;

WHEREAS, the MT Solar I is lying off Guimaras 3,000 feet underwater and local salvage teams do not have the equipment and the capability to reach such depths;

WHEREAS, the MT Solar I is a single hull vessel, the use of which has already been prohibited by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under the 1987 Marpol Convention;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the said convention and is therefore bound to implement its provisions;

WHEREAS, there are also reports that, the captain of the sunken MT Solar I which has created the country's worst oil spill was not licensed to operate tankers;

WHEREAS, this is the second time that a vessel chartered by PETRON Corporation has resulted in an oil spill. Last year, a barge chartered by the said company spilled oil off Semirara Island, and eventually destroyed hundreds of hectares of mangrove forests and killed marine life;

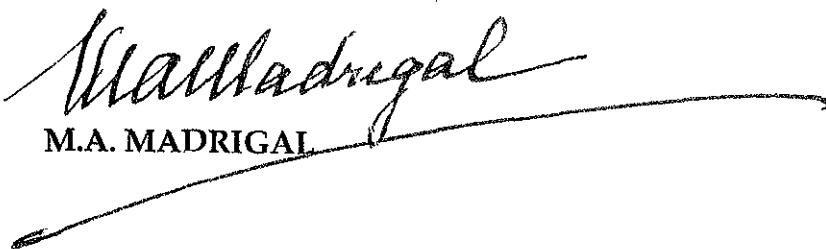
WHEREAS, the barge was also single hulled;

WHEREAS, the international environmental group Greenpeace has demanded that not only Sunshine Maritime Management Corporation should be held accountable for this incident, but PETRON as well for its failure to exercise the necessary precautionary measures to prevent this environmental tragedy from occurring;

WHEREAS, the continued insistence of PETRON in using single hull vessels despite the danger and in contravention of the 1987 Marpol Convention of which the Philippines is a signatory warrants investigation.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON THE OIL SPILL IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF GUIMARAS ISLAND THAT ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF THE CHARTERED SHIP OWNER- SUNSHINE MARITIME DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE CHARTERING PARTY - PETRON CORPORATION TO OBSERVE DUE DILIGENCE AND EXERCISE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT THIS ENVIRONMENTAL TRAGEDY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL LEGISLATION.

Adopted.


M.A. MADRIGAL