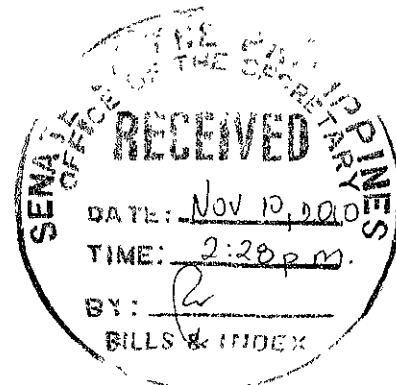


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
P. S. Res. **262**

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO DETERMINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE AND IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE FUEL SPILLAGE PARTICULARLY OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION (FPIC) PIPELINE IN BARANGAY BANGKAL IN MAKATI, DETERMINE THE CAPABILITY OF THE VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS INCLUDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL GUARANTEE FUNDS TO RESPOND TO FUEL SPILLAGE AND TO CRAFT COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO FUEL SPILLAGE AND SIMILAR ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE IN ORDER TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Whereas, a defect in the 117-kilometer fuel pipeline from the Shell refinery in Tabangao, Batangas to the Pandacan Depot in the City of Manila built in 1967 has caused the spillage of thousands of liters of fuel oil and gas into the environment contaminating the groundwater and flooding of a residential high-rise building in Makati City;

Whereas, the oil spillage has caused the deterioration of the water supply in certain shallow and deep wells which poses risks to public health and welfare;

Whereas, the fuel spillage that accumulated and flooded the basement floor areas of the West Tower Condominium in Barangay Bangkal City had caused illnesses such as respiratory ailments among the residents of West Tower Condominium;

Whereas, the fuel spillage placed residents and passers-by at great risk of explosions due to the volatile nature of the spillage further causing them sleepless nights and undue distress;

Whereas, the damage brought about by the fuel spillage in the communities traversed by the 117-kilometer pipeline should be determined with special attention to the degree and extent of the toxic plume underground;

Whereas, the concerned government agencies, the local government units of affected areas from Batangas to Manila should formulate a comprehensive clean-up, remediation and rehabilitation plan and program to restore the environmental integrity of the land and water resources in conformance to the water quality standards set in the Clean Water Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations;

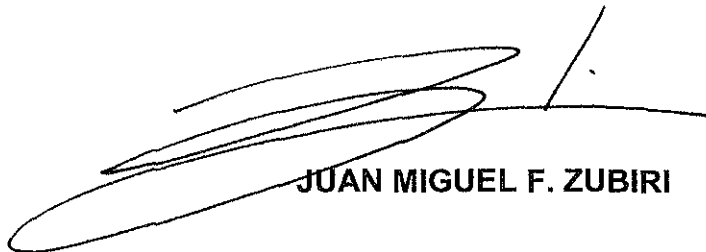
Whereas, there is a need to determine the liabilities and responsibilities of the owners and operators of the fuel pipeline under the polluter pays principle and for non-observance of their role in environmental management wherein they shall introduce innovative equipment and processes that reduce if not totally eliminate discharge of water pollutants;

Whereas, the public needs clarification from the various issuances by the FPIC, the Makati City government and the Department of Energy all of which tended to obfuscate the issue further obstructing the efforts to find the source of the spillage and thereafter delayed the crafting of an environmental clean-up and remediation plan by other government entities such as the Bureau of Fire Prevention, the department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of public Works and Highways and the Department of Health;

Whereas, the fuel spillage has raised the need for concerned national government agencies to exercise strong supervisory and regulatory functions over infrastructure plans and programs of the private sector that will affect the environment and the people as residents or transients in areas where the critical infrastructure are located;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate to direct the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to determine the environmental damages and impacts caused by the fuel spillage particularly of the First Philippine Industrial Corporation (FPIC) pipeline in Barangay Bangkal in Makati, determine the capability of the various environmental management plans including the environmental guarantee funds to respond to fuel spillage and to craft comprehensive response to fuel spillage and similar environmental incidents in the future in order to protect public health and the environment.

Adopted,



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI