Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1133

Introduced By Representative ERIC M. MARTINEZ

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SAFETY AND
SECURITY OF PORTS OF METRO MANILA IN HANDLING
HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCE IN THE LIGHT OF
THE RECENT ACCIDENT IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

WHEREAS, on 04 August 2020, just after 18:00 (15:00 GMT) a sequence of two
explosions occurred at the port of the City of Beirut, Lebanon;

WHEREAS, the extremely powerful second blast resulted in at least 157 deaths,
with dozens of bodies not yet recovered, 5,000 injuries, US$10–15 billion in
property damage and an estimated 300,000 people left homeless;

WHEREAS, the blast was linked to about 2,750 tonnes (3,030 short tons)
of ammonium nitrate which is equivalent to around 1,155 tonnes of TNT
(explosive trinitrotoluene) or 4,830 gigajoule that had been confiscated by the
Lebanese government from the abandoned ship MV Rhosus and stored in the port
without proper safety measures for six years¹;

WHEREAS, the blast was detected by the United States Geological Survey as a
seismic event of magnitude 3.3, and was heard from over 150 miles away;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, as an archipelago, has more or less 130 ports in the
Cebes Sea, Philippine Sea, West Philippine Sea and Inland Seas, three of the
major ports of which is located within Metro Manila, namely: (1) Manila North
Harbor; (2) Manila South Harbor; and (3) Manila International Container
Terminal;

WHEREAS, the 150 miles radius damage, if applied to the distance within Metro
Manila, would affect the whole city with 13,923,452 estimated population²;

² https://worldpopulationreview.com/world-cities/manila-population
WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to determine the capability of our different government agencies as regards their respective number of personnel, equipments and gadgets, weapons, and proper trainings in deterring and preventing the same catastrophe that occurred in the City of Beirut;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO DIRECT THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PORTS OF METRO MANILA IN HANDLING HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT ACCIDENT IN BEIRUT, LEBANON.

Adopted. August 10, 2020

ERIC M. MARTINEZ