

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 242



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Introduced by Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento

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**A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROTOCOLS OF MARINA AND PCG IN DETERMINING THE SEAWORTHINESS OF VESSELS AND RESPONDING TO MARITIME ACCIDENTS DUE TO THE REPEATED OCCURRENCE OF MARITIME MISHAPS IN THE COUNTRY**

**WHEREAS**, last August 6, 2019, multiple boat accidents occurred in the Iloilo-Guimaras Strait as three motorboats capsized due to strong gusts of wind at sea. Death toll due to the incident has risen to 31<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, a few weeks ago, on June 28, 2019, the Municipal Mayor of Almagro, Samar and 19 others were rescued after a motorboat sank off Sto. Niño, Samar. According to the Coast Guard, large waves hit the boat and inundated the engine which eventually caused engine malfunction. The passengers waited for 40 minutes before they were rescued by a passing fishing boat<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, on August 12, 2019, 52 passengers and 7 crew members were rescued in a sea mishap in Calbayog City, Samar as a passenger boat bound for Tagapul-an Samar capsized. The report of the incident stated that the incident was due to the strong current and big waves brought by the southwest monsoon<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the number of maritime accidents usually rise in the middle of the year, when the country is battered by storms and typhoons<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is known to have a poor shipping safety record with a number of mishaps occurring every year, usually caused by smaller boats used by citizens to travel from one island to another<sup>5</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/237032-boat-accidents-iloilo-deaths-august-4-2019>

<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1135364/mayor-19-others-rescued-after-motorboat-sinks-off-samar-town>

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/08/12/52-passengers-7-crew-members-rescued-in-sea-mishap-in-samar/>

<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/237032-boat-accidents-iloilo-deaths-august-4-2019>

<sup>5</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/08/death-toll-philippines-ferries-disaster-rises-25-190804082042895.html>

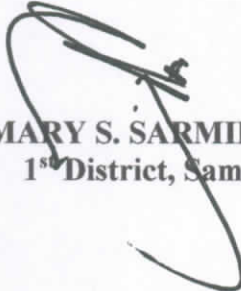
**WHEREAS**, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) is mandated to set safety standards for vessels, and to require all domestic ship operators to comply with operational and safety standards for vessels<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is mandated and responsible to perform maritime search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime safety, marine environmental protection and maritime security;

**WHEREAS**, ensuring the safety of our passengers is of prime importance. Our citizens rely on the safety and efficiency of our transportation sector in their daily lives, especially our maritime sector since the country is an archipelago;

**WHEREAS**, with the consistently high number of maritime mishaps and ship accidents, it is an opportune time to review the manuals and protocols of the MARINA on determining the seaworthiness and safety of the vessels leaving our ports, and the protocols of MARINA and the PCG in responding to these maritime incidents;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives thru the Committee on Transportation to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the protocols of MARINA and the PCG in determining the seaworthiness of vessels and responding to maritime accidents.



**EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO**  
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<sup>6</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/237032-boat-accidents-iloilo-deaths-august-4-2019>

<sup>7</sup> Republic Act. No. 9295