

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 202**



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Introduced by  
**BAYAN MUNA Party-List**  
**Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT, CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, and**  
**FERDINAND R. GAITE, ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L.**  
**CASTRO, GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS.**  
**and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

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**RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE  
COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT, TO CONDUCT AN  
INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CAPSIZING OF 3 BOATS  
IN THE ILOILO- GUIMARAS STRAIT**

**WHEREAS**, on August 3, 2019, three motorized, wooden-hulled boats carrying a total of 96 passengers and crew capsized off the central island of Guimaras and Iloilo province, after they sailed in the middle of bad weather conditions. As of August 6, 2019, the death toll has already reached 31 dead, while several others are still declared missing and subject of ongoing search;

**WHEREAS**, two (2) of the motorboats, Chi-chi and Keziah, capsized past noon due to strong winds and waves while both were sailing from Iloilo City to Jordan town in Guimaras. The third motorboat, Jenny Vince, was allowed to travel even as the two (2) motorboats had already capsized. Jenny Vince capsized at 3:30 p.m. while sailing from Buenavista, Guimaras to Iloilo City;

**WHEREAS**, residents report slow and inadequate search and rescue response in saving the passengers of the capsized motorboats. During the rescue operations, the rope used to tie the capsized vessel to prevent it from being swept by the current, was even cut;

**WHEREAS**, reports on the death toll given by the agencies do not match. On August 4, the Philippine Coast Guard reported 31 deaths while the Iloilo Disaster agency reported 25 deaths;

**WHEREAS**, there were also reports that the ill-fated boats were allowed to sail despite the lack of adequate safety gears, like the mandatory life vests. The repeated occurrence of maritime incidents such as the Iloilo-Guimaras sea mishap is emblematic of a deeper, systemic problem that confront our transportation sector where regulation for the safety and security of our people are given


perfunctory attention, at the expense of profit and pecuniary interests to corrupt employees and officials;

**WHEREAS**, as an archipelagic country with thousands of passengers regularly traveling by sea, it is of utmost importance to exhaust all efforts to pinpoint safety measures that may have been overlooked or possible oversight on the part of regulatory agencies to ensure better maritime safety for all Filipinos;

**WHEREAS**, it is the primordial duty of Congress, in the exercise of its legislative and oversight functions, to ensure the safety and security of our people and to provide mechanism to hold responsible officials and employees accountable at all times;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives, through its Committee on Disaster Management, to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the August 3, 2019 capsizing of three (3) motorboats in the Iloilo-Guimaras Strait that resulted to the death of many passengers.

*Adopted,*

  
**Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**  
*BAYAN MUNA Partylist*

  
**Rep. FERDINAND R. GAITE**  
*BAYAN MUNA Partylist*

  
**Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
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**Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
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