Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO: 1570

Introduced by Honorable Representatives
ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women’s Party);
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT and FERDINAND R. GAITE (Bayan Muna);
FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers); and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan)

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE AMMONIA LEAK AT
THE TP MARCELO ICE PLANT AND COLD STORAGE IN NAVOTAS CITY ON FEBRUARY
3, 2021, RELATED TO POSSIBLE ENFORCEMENT LAPSES OF THE OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH) LAW AND THE IMPACTS TO NEARBY COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Standards Law or Republic Act 11058
mandates that every employer should provide workers a place of employment free from
hazardous conditions;

WHEREAS, RA 11058 declares the State’s policy “to protect every worker against injury, sickness
or death through safe and healthful working conditions thereby assuring the conservation of
valuable manpower resources and prevention of loss or damage to lives and properties consistent
with national development goals, and with the State’s commitment to the total development of
every worker as a complete human being”;

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the said law provides for the right of workers and their representatives
to report accidents, dangerous occurrences, and hazards to the employer, to the Department of
Labor and Employment (DOLE), and other concerned government agencies exercising
jurisdiction,

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2021, an ammonia leak at the TP Marcelo Ice Plant and Cold Storage
facility in Barangay North Bay Boulevard South, Navotas City occurred, sending hundreds of
residents near the ice plant fleeing for their safety;

WHEREAS, at least two workers died and more than 90 others were sickened or injured following
the ammonia leak; those who were taken to nearby hospitals were reportedly not given immediate
medical attention even as they complained breathing problems;

WHEREAS, more than 3,500 families in Navotas City were reportedly affected by the incident,
indicating the magnitude and extent of the ammonia leak;
WHEREAS, ammonia is a burn-inducing, moisture-absorbing, flammable and explosive chemical used as pesticide or refrigerant in ice plants. In small amounts, it can cause headaches, loss of sense of smell, nausea, and vomiting but in significant amounts (more than 50 parts per million), it can cause irritation to the nose, mouth and throat. It can even be fatal in concentrations as high as 300-500 parts per million;

WHEREAS, investigators were determining if ammonia leaked from pipe or was set of after a tank exploded;

WHEREAS, DOLE said the owners of the TP Marcelo Ice Plant and Cold Storage failed to submit a report on the fatalities and injuries within 24 hours after the incident;

WHEREAS, it has yet to be established whether the said facility has been inspected by the Labor Department in line with the occupational safety and health standards under RA 11058 and its implementing rules and regulations, and in line with the Republic Act 6969 or the “Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act” and its IRR;

WHEREAS, fatal work accidents persist despite the enactment of the OSH Law, indicating the need to strengthen the national government’s labor inspections on all workplaces in the country and the need to fortify sanctions stipulated in the OSH Law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Labor and Employment conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the ammonia leak at the TP Marcelo Ice Plant and Cold Storage in Navotas City, related to possible enforcement lapses of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Law and the impacts to nearby communities.

Adopted,

ARLENE D/BROSAS
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