Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 81

Submitted by the Committee on Natural Resources on
Re: House Bill No. 1158
Recommend its approval, without amendment.
Sponsors: Representatives Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr. and Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred House Bill No. 1158, introduced by Representative Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE THIRD DISTRICT OF PALAWAN A MINING-FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

has considered the same and recommends its approval, without amendment, with Representatives Acosta and Barzaga, as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

REP. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Natural Resources

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
House of Representatives
Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 1158

Introduced by Representatives Gil "Kabarangay Jr." A. Acosta and Elpidio F.
Barzaga, Jr.

AN ACT
DECLARING THE THIRD DISTRICT OF PALAWAN A MINING-FREE
ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Statement of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to
protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful
ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this
end, the State shall protect the people and the environment of the Third
District of Palawan composed of the City of Puerto Princesa and the
Municipality of Aborlan against the adverse effects of mining.

SEC. 2. Mining-Free Zone. – The Third District of Palawan is hereby
declared as a mining-free zone. All forms of mining operations and activities
within its territorial jurisdiction are therefore prohibited.

As used in this Act, "mining" shall refer to the extraction of valuable
minerals or other geological materials, excluding quarrying of gravel, sand
and marble. This shall include large-scale and small-scale mining activities
involving exploration, feasibility, development, utilization and processing.

SEC. 3. Penal Provisions. – Any person, natural or juridical, or any
public officer, who violates the provisions of this Act shall suffer the penalty
of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than twelve (12)
years and a fine of not less than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not
more than Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00).

Any public officer who violates this Act shall also be dismissed from
service and perpetually disqualified from holding public office.

If the violator is a juridical entity, the highest ranking official and
the members of its board of directors or trustees who authorized the
violations therein shall suffer the penalty imposed in this Act.

SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60)
days from the passage of this Act, the Department of Environment and
Natural Resources shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for
its effective implementation.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. – If any section or provision of this Act
is held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions which are not affected
thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, and other
issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,