

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 125



Introduced by **Rep. LAWRENCE LEMUEL H. FORTUN**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF MINING IN THE COUNTRY, ITS EFFECTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, THE HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC, THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO REVENUES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND TO INTRODUCE REFORM MEASURES THAT WILL EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE WEAKNESSES, SHORTCOMINGS, AND FAILURES OF THE MINING ACT OF 1995 AND ALL OTHER MINING-RELATED LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS, AND ISSUANCES AND THE INSUFFICIENCY OR ABSENCE OF INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR EFFECTIVE EVALUATION AND STRICT REGULATION OF MINING OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Philippines is the world's fifth most mineral-rich country in the world for gold, nickel, copper, and chromite and said to be the country with the largest copper-gold deposit in the world;

WHEREAS, mining operations have been allowed in practically all regions in the country and are continuously growing according to the Philippine Statistics Authority whose latest report shows that mining and quarrying further grew by 5.3 percent in the first quarter of 2019;

WHEREAS, in 2018, with the estimated production value for metallic minerals reaching PhP121.94 Billion, the mineral industry is estimated to provide employment to 212,000;

WHEREAS, while the aforesaid figures on production and employment may be encouraging, reliable reports and statistics reveal the contrary, the poverty incidence in mining areas having reached twice the national average in 2015, thereby making poverty incidence in the mining sector the highest in the country;

WHEREAS, the current pace and manner by which mining development in the Philippines is taking place despite the government's lack of institutional capacity for efficient evaluation and regulation of mining operations may undermine the latter's own efforts for sustainable development as these may result in the destruction of critical ecosystems, including watersheds, rivers, marine ecosystems, and important agricultural production areas, and threaten the health of the public;

WHEREAS, there have been trustworthy accounts of serious adverse effects of mining operations to the environment, agriculture, and health of the public in certain mining areas in the country that have already reached alarming proportions and require immediate solutions and long-term interventions;

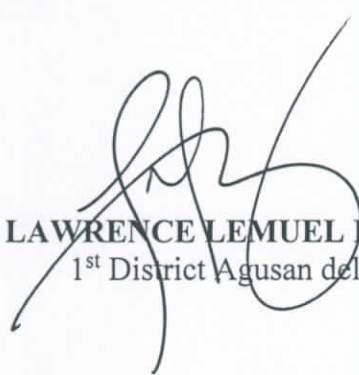
WHEREAS, while mining has been a fast-growing industry in terms of production, records demonstrate that the industry has not made a significant contribution to both the local government and the national government in terms of taxes, fees, charges, royalties, and other revenues, and only a little to the country's Gross Domestic Product;

WHEREAS, it is also of utmost importance to look into reports of violations of the rights of indigenous peoples in areas where ancestral domains have been affected by mining operations and ensure that violators are penalized, the indigenous peoples compensated, and the recurrence of the same effectively prevented;

WHEREAS, in view of the environmental, social, and economic costs of mining, it is incumbent upon Congress to investigate, in aid of legislation, the impact of mining operations in the country and come up with a comprehensive legislation that seeks to address the issues relative to the environment, agriculture, the health of the public, the rights of indigenous peoples, economic and social development, local and national government revenues, and the capacity of the government to effectively evaluate and regulate mining;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples, and the Committee on Local Government to conduct a joint investigation, in aid of legislation, on the impact of mining in the country, its effects to the environment, agriculture, the health of the public, the rights of indigenous peoples, and its contribution to revenues of local government units and the national government and economic and social development, and to introduce reform measures that will effectively address the weaknesses, shortcomings, and failures of the Mining Act of 1995 and all other mining-related laws, rules, regulations, and issuances and the insufficiency or absence of institutional mechanisms for effective evaluation and strict regulation of mining operations in the country.

Adopted.



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