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THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. **641** RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan, Senator Sergio R. Osmeña,
Senator Pia S. Cayetano

A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF
IRRESPONSIBLE MINING ACTIVITIES ON FARMING AND FISHING
COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Philippines has potentially rich mineral resources and large mineral deposits found throughout the country. The country is rich in gold, silver, platinum, nickel, copper and chromite;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is endowed not only with a rich biodiversity but also with abundant mineral resources. Mining activities have been pursued in Palawan, Benguet, Surigao, Albay, and other parts of the country where large-scale mining companies are located. The surging of small-scale mining companies conducting mining or have mining permit applications is an indication of government's support for mining activities;

WHEREAS, while mining brings in multi-million dollar investments to the country, provides jobs to the people in the communities, and builds high cost infrastructure, irresponsible mining has caused the destruction of the environment and brought about significant and harmful effects on the agriculture and fishery resources;

WHEREAS, while irresponsible mining has been proven to have detrimental effects on agriculture and fisheries, destroying and polluting croplands, coral reefs and marine habitats, it is a major cause of metal contamination as these mining activities cause the downward movement of silt and tailings laced with toxic metals onto the croplands, into rivers/creeks and marine ecosystems through run-off, erosion and landslides;

WHEREAS, laterite, which is a rusty-red residual ore deposit resulting from the weathering of rocks and soil, has been found in the farmlands and rivers of mining communities throughout the country. The metals and minerals that are associated with laterite soil are nickel, aluminum, cobalt, chromium, manganese, copper, cadmium and zinc. These metals and minerals are highly toxic to living organisms and the toxic residues like laterite can contaminate and destroy marine and agricultural products;

WHEREAS, the evidence of wastes found in the rivers and croplands in the country can be a threat to health and major livelihood sources of the people in rural areas, this sends a strong signal for government to implement policies aimed at protecting the country's natural resources such as land and water, to ensure food security and lower the incidence of poverty in rural areas;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the impact of irresponsible mining activities on the local farming and fishing communities in the country.

ADOPTED.

