

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

04 JUN 30 P3:47

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S E N A T E

S. No. 295

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the year 2003, output from the mining and quarrying industry amounted to 1.52% of Gross National Product, or ₱17.966 billion valued at constant prices. This figure apparently does not take into consideration the environmental damage resulting especially from large-scale mining. Some of the cost of environmental damage, such as the pollution of waterways and the poisoning of water sources, the collapse of mountains, are clearly not reflected in the income accounts, but are already being shouldered by communities around the mining sites. Future generations will also bear the cost, as they fall victim to similar disasters.

This bill seeks to repeal Republic Act 7942 otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. R.A. 7942 was enacted to develop the mining industry, encouraging the operation of large-scale mining by local and foreign corporate entities. The apparent oversight of this legislation is the fact that large-scale mining companies have no incentive to prevent, or make restitution for the damage that they inflict on the environment.

In the absence of a Philippine Mining Act, it is hoped that subsequent mining activities will be restricted to small-scale miners who with their long-term stake in their respective communities tend to be more responsible about preventing environmental damage.

The numerous disasters attributed to environmental damage emphasize the importance of a more far-sighted approach to economic development. Clearly, the short-term profits from large-scale extraction of our natural resources should be carefully weighed against the costs, both in the present and future, of damage inflicted on our environment.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 7942, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE PHILIPPINE MINING ACT OF 1995

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding,
2 Republic Act Numbered 7942 entitled "An Act Instituting a New System of
3 Mineral Resources Exploration, Development, Utilization and Conservation" is
4 hereby repealed.

5 **Sec. 2.** Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
6 after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,