

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'13 SEP 23 A8:24

SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 263

RECEIVED BY. 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ILLEGAL BLACK SAND MINING OPERATIONS IN THE CAGAYAN ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING OFFICIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE IMPACT OF THE MINING OPERATIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Article 2 Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution states: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, Article 11, Section 1 of the same states: "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives";

WHEREAS, GMANewsOnline.com, in an article entitled "PNoy asked to stop illegal black sand mining in Cagayan" posted on 16 September 2013, reported that a group of concerned citizens asked President Benigno Aquino III to personally put a stop to alleged incidents of illegal black sand mining in Cagayan.;

WHEREAS, according to the news report, the Federation of Environmental Advocates of Cagayan (FEAC) presented a petition, which has reached 23,000 signatures, to Presidential Legislative Liaison Office head Manuel Mamba asking Aquino to disallow the extraction of black sand along Cagayan's coastlines, which is reportedly hurting fisherfolk and the environment;

WHEREAS, the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) reportedly said they are preparing a resolution to come out by September 19 recommending that Aquino issue an order prohibiting all types of black sand mining in the province;

WHEREAS, black sand mining reportedly began in Cagayan in 2008, and MICC have purportedly been able to document several violations by mining operators, some of whom are allegedly being protected by local police and officials;

WHEREAS, members of MICC alleged that the heads of the Department of Justice, Department of Finance, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, are aware of this "reality";

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to investigate, in aid of legislation, on the reported illegal black sand mining operations in the Cagayan allegedly involving officials from the Department of Justice, Department of Finance, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the impact of the mining operations on the environment and its affected communities.

Adopted.

*acw.*   
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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