

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

14 APR -17 P5:18

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

P.S. Res. No. 595

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF MINING THROUGH THE ISSUANCE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF SMALL-SCALE MINING PERMITS AND SIMILAR PERMITS, WHICH HAVE, ON SEVERAL INSTANCES, COUNTENANCED THE CONDUCT OF PROHIBITED MINING ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, there is a rising incidence of legitimate mining permits, especially with regard to small-scale mining permits, being used to cover up illegal mining activities;

WHEREAS, in Camarines Norte there have been reports that mining operations covered by permits for the operation of small-scale mining have in actuality been conducted by foreign nationals and, as of February 2014, reports have shown that these same foreign nationals extracted roughly Php12 Million worth of minerals with the use of heavy equipment, contrary to the definition of small-scale mining under Republic Act No. 7076;

WHEREAS, in Surigao del Sur there have been reports that local government units have issued mining permits for small-scale mining operations that were actually financed and operated by foreign nationals, allegedly an American citizen, a Taiwanese national and several Chinese nationals, as established by media reports, despite the limitation under R.A. No. 7076 that small-scale mining shall be conducted only by Filipino citizens;

WHEREAS, dredging permits have also been issued by local government units that have resulted in the permitted extraction of black sand from provinces such as Cagayan, Ilocos, Quezon, Leyte, Bicol and Zambales, to name a few, despite the prohibition under Republic Act No. 7076;

WHEREAS, there have been reports that some mining activities, which would otherwise be legitimate, have been permitted despite the absence of an environmental compliance certificate (ECC), which is a requirement issued by the appropriate office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;


WHEREAS, there is a need to investigate the alleged practice of local government units relative to mining operations, with particular focus on the issuance of small-scale mining permits, dredging permits and the like, which give the conduct of prohibited activities the guise of legitimacy;

WHEREAS, there is a need to audit the operations and funding of permitted mining activities to ascertain that the same are not being used to countenance illegal mining;

WHEREAS, there is a need to investigate the rising incidence of illegal mining to craft legislative measures that will effectively protect our mineral reserves and to truly attain the policy of the State to protect and rationalize mining activities to establish truly equitable sharing of the nation's wealth;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the proper Senate Committees be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proliferation of illegal mining through the issuance by local government units of small-scale mining permits and similar permits to countenance the conduct of prohibited mining activities.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator
MLK