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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1249

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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1 RESOLUTION  
2 DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
3 OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTED CALLS FOR A MINING BAN IN NUEVA ECIIJA

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

7 WHEREAS, the *Manila Standard Today* on 28 January 2015, reported that  
8 environmentalists are urging the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to  
9 put an end to open-pit mining in Nueva Ecija;

10 WHEREAS, the news quoted Clemente Bautista of Kalikasan People's Network for the  
11 Environment (Kalikasan PNE), who said that among the mining operations his group wants  
12 stopped are Australian firm Oceana Gold's gold and copper project in Kasibu town and British  
13 firm FCF Minerals' planned project in Quezon town;

14 WHEREAS, Bautista claimed that local ordinances have been passed in the province as a  
15 clear expression of the people's opposition to these mines;

16 WHEREAS, the environmentalist also cited recent scientific studies showing the need to  
17 protect freshwater ecosystems, prevent biodiversity loss, and avoid any socio-economic and  
18 cultural dislocation in host communities;


19 WHEREAS, Bautista reportedly said the results of the 2014 Environmental Investigative  
20 Mission showed high levels of heavy metal in the sediments and water samples from the river  
21 systems in the province;

1           WHEREAS, the government must aim for a delicate balance between, on one hand,  
2 policies allowing the use of natural resources for economic gain, and on the other, policies that  
3 protect the environment;

4           WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must empower local governments to  
5 address issues such as mining;

6           WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate  
7 committee to investigate, in aid of legislation, on the report that environmentalists call for mining  
8 ban in Bayombong, Nueva Ecija;

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
RP

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