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SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 1463

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Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO LOOK INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS BEING ENFORCED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN SMALL-SCALE AND LARGE-SCALE MINING SITES IN THE COUNTRY IN LIGHT OF THE REPORTED COLLAPSE OF A PORTION OF THE OPEN-PIT COAL MINE IN SEMIRARA ISLAND, ANTIQUE LEADING TO MULTIPLE FATALITIES

WHEREAS, Article II Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare in recognition of their function as a primary social economic force;

WHEREAS, Section 63 of Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 states that all contractors and permittees shall strictly comply with all the mines safety rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) concerning the safe and sanitary upkeep of mining operations to achieve waste-free and efficient mine development;

WHEREAS, Section 66 of the same law gives the regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the DENR, exclusive jurisdiction over the safety inspection of all installations, surface or underground, in mining operations at reasonable hours;

WHEREAS, a subsidiary of DMCI Holdings, Inc., Semirara Mining and Power Corporation is the biggest coal producer in the Philippines and is the only power generator that owns and mines its own fuel source (coal) with an installed generating capacity of 600 megawatts (MW) and an additional 1,200 MW in the pipeline;

WHEREAS, being the operator of the largest pit mine in the country which is located in Semirara Island in Antique, Semirara Mining and Power Corporation's truck and shovel operations can produce 8 million metric tons of coal every year with its exports going to nearby Asian countries such as China, India, Japan and Thailand, among others;

imperative that concerned government agencies determine whether sufficient safety precautions were being implemented at that time when the miners were working on the site's water system despite days of rainfall;

WHEREAS, there is a necessity for a fair and impartial investigation by concerned government agencies and local government units to ensure to protect the interest of the country's workers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to direct the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources, and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, to look into the environmental and occupational standards being enforced by government agencies and local government units in small-scale and large-scale mining sites in the country in light of the reported collapse of a portion of the open-pit coal mine in Semirara Island, Antique leading to multiple fatalities.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator