


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

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RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

P.Senate Resolution No. 200

Introduced by Senator M.A. Madrigal

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE WELL BEING OF THE
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, AND THE
ENFORCEMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS ON THEIR ANCESTRAL DOMAINS, IN
THE LIGHT OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL AND ABUSIVE MINING OPERATIONS IN
THE PROVINCE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING REMEDIAL
LEGISLATION THEREIN**

WHEREAS, Republic Act 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act, guarantees the protection of the rights of the indigenous peoples over their ancestral lands;

WHEREAS, despite the existence of the said law, a number of indigenous peoples have reported various acts of encroachment being made on their land by both illegal and legal miners and forest concessionaires;

WHEREAS, one such province where the said practice is prevalent is in Occidental Mindoro, particularly the "Mindoro Nickel Project;"

WHEREAS, the Mindoro Nickel Project is being undertaken by the Aglubang Mining Corporation, a subsidiary of the Crew Minerals Corporation;

WHEREAS, the 9,700 hectare mining area of Aglubang Mining Corporation is alleged to be within the ancestral domain claim of the Alangan and Tadyawan indigenous Mangyan communities;

WHEREAS, the said project threatens the ecological integrity of the province since the mine site covers one of the province's watershed areas which provides irrigation for 70% of the provinces' rice fields and fruit tree plantations;

WHEREAS, the said project also is alleged to pose a threat to the loss of forest habitat due to massive clearing, bulldozing and temporary stockpiling of the topsoil in the mine site;

WHEREAS, the mining concession of the said project was revoked in 2001 on environmental and social impact grounds;

WHEREAS, however on 10 March 2004, the Office of the President reportedly revoked and set aside the Notice of Termination/Cancellation issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), thus allowing the Aglubang Mining Corporation to resume its operations;

WHEREAS, other than the aforementioned mining concession, there are also other mining operations in the said province which not only continue to harm the environment but also result in the displacement of the indigenous people in their ancestral domains;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Cultural Communities to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the well being of the indigenous peoples in Occidental Mindoro, and the enforcement of their rights on their ancestral domains, in the light of alleged illegal and abusive mining operations in the province, with the end in view of recommending remedial legislation therein.

Adopted,


M.A. MADRIGAL