

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

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RECEIVED BY:

SENATE
P S. R. No 306

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE COMPOSTELA MINE BLAST

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides that "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all",

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 further provides that: "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, last 26 October 2005, around 10 20 p m, an air ventilation compressor exploded inside a tunnel in the gold rush area of Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley province; the mine site is operated by JB Management and Mining Corporation;

WHEREAS, according to Civil Defense official Flor Salvador, five miners are confirmed dead, ten have been are rescued and ten are injured,

WHEREAS, small-scale mining operations in Monkayo, Compostela Valley usually employ people on an informal basis, making it difficult to keep track of the number of workers on site,

WHEREAS, safety measures are often haphazardly applied in these small-scale mining operations that is why accidents are common in the mining areas in Mt. Diwalwal, thousands have also been killed in the intense rivalry between small-scale and big-scale miners in the gold rush site since the 1980s,

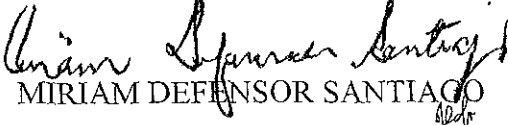
WHEREAS, the government has occasionally stopped mining firms from operating due to the rash of violent incidents and environmental concerns;

WHEREAS, given the recent mining mishap, it is imperative for the government to review the safety precautions regulating mining operations in order to prevent untoward accidents from happening;

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment should also impose stringent provisions in the labor guidelines of mining companies in order to protect the rights of the miners,

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Relations and the Senate Committee on Public Services to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Compostela mine blast

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO