

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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 103

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXODUS OF GOVERNMENT GEOLOGISTS
FROM THE MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU UNDER THE DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

WHEREAS, last 4 August 2010, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported that an alarming number of geologists from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have left to work for private companies here and abroad;

WHEREAS, MGB Assistant Director Leo Jasarena said in the news article that since 1982, MGB lost 83 geologists, most of whom have years of field experience as well as graduate degrees under their belts;

WHEREAS, Jasarena pointed out that the braindrain was caused by the increase in the demand for geologists from a booming global mining industry;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the monthly salary of senior government geologists of P30,000 could not match the offers of private companies;

WHEREAS, despite the brain drain, the reports said that the MGB could not hire permanent geologists since the Department of Budget and Management has yet to approve the MGB's rationalization plan, which means that the bureau cannot replace the employees they lost;

WHEREAS, it is said that MGB is currently forced to cut back on their targets and increase their working hours due to its present situation;

WHEREAS, Jasarena mentioned that they had to work on weekends and hire contractual workers for MGB to finish the geohazard mapping project by the third quarter of this year;

WHEREAS, the government's geohazard mapping project is part of the government's disaster management and mitigation program that aims to reduce the loss of lives and properties caused by natural disasters by identifying areas vulnerable to landslides, coastal erosions, flooding, and sea-level rise;

WHEREAS, Jasarena also said that mining engineering and geology are not popular courses of choice to incoming college students, which compounds the problem of decreasing number of government geologists;

WHEREAS, only University of the Philippines, Adamson University and Mapua Institute of Technology offer degrees in mining engineering in Metro Manila, while only UP and Adamson offer degrees in geology;

WHEREAS, while the approval of the MGB rationalization plan in the DBM would enable the bureau to hire more staff geologists, legislation should find immediate remedies to the brain drain in the mining industry because the successful implementation of crucial projects such as the geohazard mapping and solid waste assessment requires skilled personnel;

WHEREAS, addressing this alarming exodus of government geologists and considering the boom in the mining industry, the situation also calls for the need to popularize mining engineering and geology as college courses and refine the quality of the curriculum of these courses;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the exodus of government geologists from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
REV.

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