

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 547

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NICKEL CONTAMINATION IN STA. CRUZ,
ZAMBALES

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

WHEREAS, *GMA NEWS Online*, in its 21 February 2014 online article, reported that four mining companies may have their operations suspended over nickel contamination in the town of Sta. Cruz in Zambales since last year;

WHEREAS, in a report in *24 Oras* which aired on 20 February 2014, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Leo Jasareno said his agency is now conducting an investigation into the possible operational lapses of the following firms:

- Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc. (BNMI)
- Eramen Minerals, Inc.
- Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. (DMCI Mining Corp. and Rusina Mining Corp.)
- Lnl Archipelago Minerals, Inc., designated operator of Filipinas Mining Corp.

WHEREAS, it was reported that the MGB allowed the companies to extract around 8.5 million metric tons of nickel and other minerals a year in Zambales;

WHEREAS, Jasareno claimed that the companies may have violated the conditions of their environmental compliance certificates regarding for maintaining oversized nickel stockpiles;

WHEREAS, Jasareno reportedly said the MGB is also investigating the possible absence of tailings ponds which are supposed to contain the dissolved nickel during rains;

WHEREAS, Jasareno also reportedly said that the four companies were already ordered to explain the contamination on the shores and rice fields of Sta. Cruz, if found guilty of violating the guidelines, these companies will be suspended;

WHEREAS, its operations and environment-related measures are closely and regularly monitored by DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), MGB, and EMB (Environmental Management Bureau), LGUs (local government units) as well as community organizations," BNMI said in a statement;

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 reported nickel contamination in Sta. Cruz, Zambales.

Adopted,

ass.
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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