


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

14 AUG -6 P2 :09

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 819

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 SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING OPERATIONS IN WATERSHEDS AND RIVER SYSTEMS OF THE SIERRA MADRE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 states that, “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, Republic Act No. 7076, otherwise known as the People’s Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991, defines small-scale mining as “the mining activities which rely heavily on manual labor using simple implements and methods and do not use explosives or heavy mining equipment”;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star*, in its 2 July 2014 issue, reported that unregulated small-scale gold mining imperils the Angat and Marikina watersheds;

WHEREAS, the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance (SSMNA) alleged that artisanal and small-scale gold mining operations are going on in major head rivers of three critical Luzon watersheds – Angat, Umiray and Marikina;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the Angat watershed is the primary source of domestic water for Metro Manila and Central Luzon;

WHEREAS, the Marikina watershed reportedly drains into the Marikina River and Laguna de Bay;

WHEREAS, the SSMNA alleged that the small-scale gold miners use mercury;

WHEREAS, the report claimed that mercury, when released into the environment, can travel great distances and may cause contamination of ecosystems, wildlife and the food chain;

WHEREAS, mining also reportedly causes heavy siltation and erosion and increases hazards and disaster risk, especially to riverside and low-lying communities;

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Carranza, chairperson of SSMNA, reportedly said that people are continuously flocking to these watersheds in search of livelihood;

WHEREAS, Carranza allegedly said that in the Angat-Umiray watershed, there is a growing community of migrants from the Cordilleras and the Bicol region that started gold mining in the area in the 1970s;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State review the laws on granting small-scale mining permits and implement strict environmental measures to protect the country's critical watersheds;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported small-scale gold mining operations in watersheds and river systems of the Sierra Madre.

Approved,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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