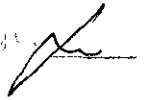


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SENATE  
P.S. RES. No. 624

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Introduced by **SENATOR LACSON**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT ATTACKS MADE BY THE COMMUNIST ARMED GROUP, NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA), ON SEVERAL MINING FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE READINESS AND CAPABILITY OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) IN PREVENTING, REPELLING AND RESPONDING TO SUCH ATTACKS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING REMEDIAL LEGISLATIONS THAT WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE AFP AND OUR NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS**

**Whereas**, the 1987 Constitution provides that the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. It also provides that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

**Whereas**, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory;

**Whereas**, in the morning of October 3, 2011, some four hundred (400) to four hundred fifty (450) rebels belonging to the Communist Armed Group, the New People's Army (NPA), who were wearing military and police uniforms, raided simultaneously the Taganito Mining Corp. (TMC), a unit of Nickel Asia Corp., in Barangay Taganito and Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) in the nearby Barangay Cagdinao, both in the Municipality of Claver, Province of Surigao del Norte, and three hours thereafter, another mine site of the Taganito Company, Taganito HPAL Corporation, was also attacked by the said rebels;

**Whereas**, the rebels after entering the TMC compound, raised their communist flag atop the company flagpole and conducted a brief indoctrination among the employees of TMC;

**Whereas**, the communist rebels torched the TMC administrative office, several dump trucks, major mining equipment and barges of the mining firms and also took the firearms, personal and company laptops, including cell phones of the employees;

**Whereas**, based on initial assessment, the estimated damage to properties amounted to \$50 million dollars;

**Whereas**, during New Year's Day of January 2008, the communist rebels also attacked the base camp of Sagittarius Mines, Inc., a mining firm majority owned by the Swiss group Xstrata, in Tampakan, South Cotabato, where some buildings and mining equipment were also burned;

**Whereas**, then Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal vowed that the rebel group will continue similar attacks against large mining firms operating in the country;

**Whereas**, after the attack in 2008, the Armed Forces decided to deploy more military and paramilitary units in order to train private security forces who will serve as security guards of foreign mining firms operating in the country;

**Whereas**, in response to the recent attacks, the Armed Forces said that it cannot defend mining projects in Mindanao against the attacks of the rebels given its meager resources and that the mining firms should hire instead military-organized militias to guard them. The Philippine Army also offered to organize, equip, train and supervise three special civilian active auxiliary (SCAA) units to guard the three mines that were attacked which the companies will have to pay;


**Whereas**, there is an apparent failure on the part of the military to assess the threat and the vulnerability of mining companies from the attacks of the communist rebels despite the historical record of attacks on mining firms coupled by the declaration from the communist group that they will continue to attack foreign mining firms;

**Whereas**, because of said failure, the military was unable to provide the necessary security and protection to the above-mentioned mining firms rendering the company and its employees almost helpless and at the mercy of these rebels;

**Whereas**, this failure on the part of the military is a serious security concern which must be readily addressed thru appropriate remedial measures not only because the attacks are threats to the flourishing mining industry but also because of its negative impact on investor confidence in the country; **NOW, THEREFORE**;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct, as it hereby directs, the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent attacks conducted by the communist rebel group, New People's Army, on several mining facilities in the country in order to determine the readiness and capability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in preventing, repelling and responding to such attacks, with the end in view of reviewing our laws on rebellion, evaluate and strengthen the laws governing our national security and enhance the capability of the AFP.

*Adopted,*

  
**PANFILO M. LACSON**  
Senator