



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4363

BY REPRESENTATIVES RAMOS AND MATUGAS, PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 189

AN ACT DECLARING THE SECOND DISTRICT OF SORSOGON A MINING-FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - The Second District of Sorsogon
2 is hereby declared a mining-free zone and all mining operations therein are
3 hereby prohibited.

4 SEC. 2. *Coverage.* - As used in this Act, mining refers to the
5 extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials, excluding gravel
6 and sand. This shall include small-scale and large-scale mining activities
7 involving exploration, feasibility studies and development, utilization, and
8 processing of materials.

9 SEC. 3. *Prohibition and Penalties.* - It shall be unlawful for any
10 person to mine or continue to mine or engage in any mining operation in the
11 Second District of Sorsogon: *Provided,* That the State shall be allowed to
12 undertake mineral exploration activities in the area for research and data
13 gathering purposes.

1 Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be penalized
2 with imprisonment of at least three (3) years but not more than six (6) years
3 and a fine of at least two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) but not
4 more than five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00).

5 If the offender is a corporation, firm, partnership or association, the
6 penalty shall be imposed upon the officer or officers of the corporation, firm,
7 partnership or association responsible for the violation thereof.

8 If the offender is an alien, after service of sentence and payment of fine,
9 the person shall be deported immediately without further proceedings.

10 SEC. 4. *Transitory Provision.* – Upon approval of this Act, the
11 Provincial Government of Sorsogon, in coordination with the Department of
12 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), shall review the contracts,
13 agreements and permits entered into and/or issued to all existing mining
14 operations and determine those to be terminated and those to be allowed to
15 continue until such period that their contracts, agreements or permits may
16 allow.

17 SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one (1) month
18 after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall promulgate the
19 necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

20 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
21 regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
22 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23 SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
24 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,