



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5260

---

BY REPRESENTATIVES VIOLAGO, MATUGAS AND ZARATE, PER COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 504

---

### AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA A MINING-FREE ZONE

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

1           SECTION 1. The Province of Nueva Ecija is hereby declared a  
2 mining-free zone, and all mining operations therein shall be prohibited.

3           For the purpose of this Act, mining shall refer to the extraction of  
4 valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth and shall include  
5 such mining activities as exploration, feasibility, development, utilization and  
6 processing as well as quarry operations involving cement raw materials,  
7 marble, granite, sand and gravel construction aggregates, whether large-scale or  
8 small-scale operation: *Provided*, That the quarrying of gravel and sand for  
9 projects directly undertaken by agencies of the national government or by the  
10 provincial government for basic services such as roads and bridges, school  
11 buildings, water and energy utilities and similar public works is exempted from  
12 the coverage of this Act, subject, however, to the requirements of existing  
13 mining and environmental laws: *Provided, further*, That the national

1 government shall maintain the authority to conduct mineral exploration in any  
2 part of the province when national interest so requires, such as when there is  
3 need to determine the presence and availability of strategic raw materials for  
4 industries critical to national development or for scientific, cultural or  
5 ecological value.

6 SEC. 2. Any person, employee or employment agency who shall violate  
7 the provisions of this Act shall be penalized with imprisonment of at least six  
8 (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years and a fine of at least one hundred  
9 thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than five hundred thousand pesos  
10 (P500,000.00). If the violator is a corporation or association, the president and  
11 the manager/s of said corporation or association, or its agent or representative  
12 in the Philippines, in case of a foreign corporation or association, shall be held  
13 liable.

14 SEC. 3. Within three (3) months following the effectivity of this Act,  
15 the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall  
16 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

17 SEC. 4. If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby  
19 shall remain in force and effect.

20 SEC. 5. All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts  
21 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
22 modified accordingly.

23 SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
24 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

O