



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8816

BY REPRESENTATIVES ACOSTA AND ABELLANOSA, PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 1049

AN ACT DECLARING THE THIRD DISTRICT OF PALAWAN A MINING-FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Statement of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State
2 to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and
3 healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.
4 Towards this end, the State shall protect the people and the
5 environment of the Third District of Palawan composed of the City
6 of Puerto Princesa and the Municipality of Aborlan against the
7 adverse effects of mining.

8 SEC. 2. *Mining-Free Zone.* – The Third District of Palawan
9 is hereby declared a mining-free zone. All forms of mining
10 operations and activities within its territorial jurisdiction are
11 therefore prohibited.

12 As used in this Act, “mining” shall refer to the extraction of
13 valuable minerals or other geological materials, excluding quarrying
14 of gravel, sand and marble. This shall include large-scale and
15 small-scale mining activities involving exploration, feasibility,
16 development, utilization and processing.

1 SEC. 3. *Penal Provisions.* – Any person, natural or juridical,
2 or any public officer, who violates the provisions of this Act shall
3 suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but
4 not more than twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than One
5 million pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Ten million pesos
6 (P10,000,000.00).

7 Any public officer who violates this Act shall also be dismissed
8 from service and perpetually disqualified from holding public office.

9 If the violator is a juridical entity, the highest ranking official
10 and the members of its board of directors or trustees who authorized
11 the violations therein shall suffer the penalty imposed in this Act.

12 SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty
13 (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Department of
14 Environment and Natural Resources shall formulate the necessary
15 rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

16 SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of
17 this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or
18 the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

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

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

Approved,

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