

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 947



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**Introduced by Representative Rodante D. Marcoleta**

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**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION AND IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS LEGISLATIVE POWERS AND OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 130 S. 2021 AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-25 ENTITLED “AMENDING SECTION 4 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 79, S. 2012, INSTITUTIONALIZING AND IMPLEMENTING REFORMS IN THE PHILIPPINE MINING SECTOR, PROVIDING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBLE MINING IN THE UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES”**

**WHEREAS**, Section 1, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution states that the goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7842 or the *Philippine Mining Act of 1995* provides that it shall be the responsibility of the State to promote the rational exploration, development, utilization, and conservation of all mineral resources in public and private lands within the territory and exclusive economic zone of the Republic of the Philippines through the combined efforts of the government and the private sector in order to enhance national growth in a way that effectively safeguards the environment and protect the rights of affected communities;

**WHEREAS**, RA No. 7842 also defined the functions of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the office primarily responsible for the administration and disposition of mineral lands and mineral resources, as well as the granting of exploration permits;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on 14 April 2021, Executive Order No. 130 – *Institutionalizing and Implementing Reforms in the Philippine Mining Sector, Providing Policies and Guidelines to Ensure Environmental Protection and Responsible Mining in the Utilization of Mineral*

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<sup>1</sup> Sections 9 and 20

*Resources* was issued, effectively lifting the previous moratorium on mineral agreements under Section 4, EO No. 79;

**WHEREAS**, on 02 August 2021, Administrative Order No. 2021-25 – *The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 130* was issued clarifying the procedure and requirements for the receiving, processing and approval of mining applications upon the lifting of the moratorium provided in Section 4 of E.O. No. 79, series of 2012;

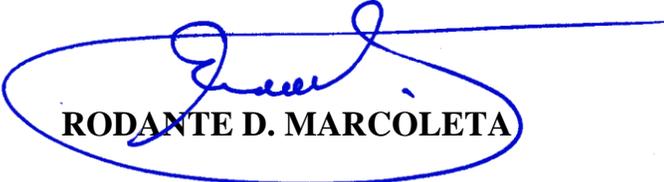
**WHEREAS**, upon verification with the central database<sup>2</sup> of the DENR-MGB, more than three thousand (3000) mining applications are still pending, with some dating back as early as 1991, in violation of Republic Act No. 11032 or the *Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018*;

**WHEREAS**, on 22 May 2022, the DENR expressed commitments to improve the efficiency of the application process for priority mining projects;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, these heavy backlogs and prolonged inaction on mining applications disincentivize foreign and local investors, deprive the government with adequate raw materials to support its projects, and discourage employment opportunities in rural areas where there are mining activities in support to the *Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program* of the government;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the appropriate committee/s of the House of Representatives, conduct an investigation in aid of legislation and in the exercise of its legislative powers and oversight functions, regarding the heavy backlogs in the approval of mining applications in the Philippines, with the end view of streamlining and strengthening the powers, functions, plans and programs of the DENR – MGB and/or amending the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

**ADOPTED.**

  
RODANTE D. MARCOLETA

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<sup>2</sup> [databaseportal.mgb.gov.ph](https://databaseportal.mgb.gov.ph)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases/3949-denr-bats-for-faster-mining-application-process>