



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5855

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BY REPRESENTATIVE MERCADO (R.)

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### AN ACT DECLARING SOUTHERN LEYTE AS A MINING-FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

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

1           SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Lone District of Southern  
2   Leyte is hereby declared as a mining-free zone, thereby prohibiting all forms of  
3   mining operation thereof.

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

8           SEC. 3. *Penal Provision.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to mine  
9   or continue mining or to engage in any mining operation in the Lone District of  
10   Southern Leyte.

11           Any person found guilty of violating the provisions of this Act shall be  
12   penalized with imprisonment of at least three (3) years but not more than six  
13   (6) years and a fine of at least Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00)  
14   but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00).

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

4           If the offender is an alien, he or she shall be deported immediately  
5 without further proceedings after service of sentence and payment of fine.

6           SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one (1) month  
7 after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of  
8 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall promulgate the necessary  
9 rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

10          SEC. 5. *Transitory Provision.* – Upon the approval of this Act, the  
11 Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, in coordination with the DENR,  
12 shall review the contracts, agreements and permits entered into and/or issued to  
13 all existing mining operations and determine those to be terminated and those  
14 to be allowed to continue until such period that their contracts, agreements or  
15 permits may allow.

16          SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
17 regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
18 are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

19          SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
20 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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