

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 982

Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The City of Baguio is renowned all over the country, and recognized overseas for its culture and heritage that is strongly connected with its nature and environment. Over the years Baguio has grown to become an economic and technological hub in the North, and as urbanization and development progressively taken their toll on the environment, sustainability, rehabilitation, and preservation have become urgent concerns. Among the threats to the sustainability of the city and the preservation of its environment are the mining activities within the city.

There are at present two mineral reservations in the city of Baguio. In 1959, President Garcia issued Proclamation 572, which excluded 159 hectares of land, covering barangays Mines View and Lucnab, from the Baguio Townsite Reservation, and declared such areas mineral reservation. However, since the effectivity of the declaration, there have been isolated small-scale mining and other activities in these and other areas. These areas have also become so heavily populated with inhabitants that they no longer serve their purpose as mining zones. In addition, the reported presence of sinkholes makes the reservations geohazard areas. If mining activities are continued in this city, the lives of the people and the local ecosystem of our city will continue to be in danger. Given this set of conditions, it is no longer beneficial for the city to allow mining activities. The irreparable damage that mining extorts upon the environment is too much a price for the potential benefits that mining promises to the host community.

Our very Constitution mandates the protection and advancement of the right to a balance and healthful ecology. This proposed measure is a step towards fulfilling this constitutional mandate for the people of Baguio.

In view of the forgoing, the immediate consideration and approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


MARK O. GO

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AN ACT REPEALING PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 572

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

SECTION 1. *Repeal of Proclamation No. 572, s. 195.* – Presidential Proclamation No. 572, s. 1959 entitled “Excluding from the Operations of the Resolutions of the Philippine Commission dated January 25, 1907 and August 30, 1916, and Opening to Disposition under the Provisions of Commonwealth Act Numbered One Hundred and Thirty- Seven, as Amended, A Parcel of Land Situated within the Baguio Townsite Reservation” is hereby repealed. All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 2. *Reclassification of Land.* – The parcel land previously declared as mineral reservation shall form part of the Baguio Townsite Reservation and is hereby reclassified as alienable and open to disposition.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,