



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1066



Introduced by Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma
Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya

**AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA A MINING FREE ZONE
AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mining is an inherently destructive industry. In every place where there is mining, especially large-scale mining projects, there is massive deforestation, contamination of water sources, depletion of agricultural areas, human rights violations, and abuse of cultural minorities.

Mining has long been a source of conflict and suffering in rural communities. Families and communities are torn apart because people are forced to decide whether they are for mining or not. Those who refuse to side with the miners lose their jobs, their houses, and ultimately their peaceful communities. Those who side with miners may gain financially for a short period of time, but in the end, they participate in the massive destruction of their lands.

The province of Nueva Vizcaya has been a witness to this vicious cycle that starts with of promises of prosperity and development which later turn out to be the one thing that destroyed the peace and harmony of its people. Right now, two large-scale mining companies are operating in Nueva Vizcaya and it has practically occupied two municipalities with the scale of its operations. Since the 1970's, mining has been a source of conflict and suffering in our province. We cannot allow more of the same.

To permanently put a stop to this ugly and destabilizing industry in our peaceful province, the ultimate solution would be to stop, once and for all, the entry of any mining project in Nueva Vizcaya.

As I have stated during my privilege speech in August of 2016: "Today, I remain as firm as ever, because lost dignity and destruction should not be the price of development. Because pain and suffering cannot bring us true progress and prosperity. Because we have a duty and a responsibility to safeguard the future of every generation of Filipinos yet to come. Because destructive, illegal, and irresponsible mining simply must stop, and it must stop now."

With this, support for this measure is earnestly sought.

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

Section 1. – Declaration of Nueva Vizcaya as a Mining Free Zone – The province of Nueva Vizcaya is hereby declared a Mining Free Zone. All forms of mining activity within its jurisdiction are hereby prohibited.

For this purpose, mining shall refer to the extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials, excluding gravel and sand marble, inclusive of activities involving large-scale or small-scale exploration, feasibility, development, utilization, and processing.

Section 2. Penal Provisions. – Any person, natural or juridical, or any public officer, who violates the provisions of this act by conducting or authorizing any mining activity in the province of Nueva Vizcaya shall be penalized with imprisonment of not less than six (6) years nor more than twelve (12) years imprisonment and shall also be imposed a fine of not less than one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) nor more than ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00).

Any public officer who violates this act, shall also be dismissed from service and perpetually disqualified from holding public office.

If the violator is a juridical entity, the highest ranking official and its Board of Directors/Trustees shall suffer the penalty imposed in this act for its violation.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act is hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,