

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 312

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Introduced by:

**HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH), NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA), AND MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU (MGB) TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION, REVIEW, AND ASSESSMENT OF ALL EXISTING DREDGING ACTIVITIES IN ALL THE RIVERS IN SOUTHERN LEYTE PARTICULARLY THE SUBANGDAKU RIVER IN SOGOD, LAWIGAN RIVER IN SAINT BERNARD, AND DAS-AY RIVER IN HINUNANGAN TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND TO IDENTIFY ANY VIOLATIONS THEREOF**

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act. No. 7942, otherwise known as the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995," and its implementing rules and regulations, govern the exploration, development, utilization, and conservation of mineral resources, including sand and gravel extraction, and vest the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) with authority over such activities;

**WHEREAS**, Presidential Decree No. 1067, or the "Water Code of the Philippines," provides for the conservation and protection of water resources, including rivers, and requires permits for the appropriation and utilization of water and related resources;

**WHEREAS**, Department Order No. 139, Series of 2014, issued by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), sets the Guidelines on River Dredging Operations for Flood Control, recognizing that riverbed excavation may alter river morphology and affect the stability of riverbanks and public structures;

**WHEREAS**, Section 79(a) of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21 provides that no extraction, removal, and/or disposition of materials shall be allowed within one (1) kilometer from the boundaries of reservoirs established for public water supply, archaeological and historical sites, or any public or private works or structures, unless prior clearance from the concerned government agency is obtained;

**WHEREAS**, Section 19(b) of Republic Act No. 7942 and Section 15(b)(2) of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21 prohibit extraction activities near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archaeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, dams, or other infrastructure projects, except upon written consent of the concerned government agency or private entity;

**WHEREAS**, DENR Administrative Order No. 2020-07 requires that only duly registered companies with the technical and financial capability to undertake large-scale flood control dredging and desilting operations may apply for a dredging clearance with the DPWH, and that such operations must be conducted within River Dredging Zones (RDZ) identified by a provincial inter-agency committee;

**WHEREAS**, the Mining Industry Coordinating Council has resolved that, in the case of river and/or delta dredging activities, the DPWH shall have direct control and supervision, emphasizing the need to address perennial threats of flooding and environmental impacts;

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, the MGB suspended quarrying activities in the Subangdaku River pending compliance with DPWH requirements, underscoring the importance of inter-agency coordination and adherence to legal and technical standards;

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative to ensure that all dredging activities in the rivers of Southern Leyte are conducted in accordance with law, with due regard for environmental protection, public safety, and the welfare of affected communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives urge the Regional Offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to conduct a comprehensive investigation, review, and assessment of all existing dredging activities in the Subangdaku River in Sogod, Lawigan River in St. Bernard, and Das-ay River in Hinunangan, Southern Leyte, to determine compliance with relevant laws and regulations, identify any violations, and recommend appropriate remedial measures;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the concerned agencies be requested to submit a report of their findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives within ninety (90) days from the adoption of this Resolution.

Adopted,

  
**CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**  
Representative, 2nd District, Southern Leyte