



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 958



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

A RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UNWANTED AND VIOLENT DISPERSAL OF THE HUMAN BARRICADE BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, THEN ESCORTED, FACILITATED AND MADE POSSIBLE THE ENTRANCE OF FUEL TANKERS TO THE OCEANA GOLD MINING COMPANY AT BARANGAY DIDIPIO, KASIBU, NUEVA VIZCAYA.

WHEREAS, Oceana Gold Philippines, Incorporated, an Australian Mining Corporation continued to illegally operate and conduct mining activities at Barangay Didipio, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya despite the expiration of their FTAA last June 20, 2019;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Officials of Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya expressed their strong objection to the continued operation of Oceana Gold and asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Office of the President not to renew the FTAA of said mining company. In fact, the Sangguniang Barangay of Didipio passed a resolution directing Oceana Gold to immediately stop its operations upon expiration of their FTAA;

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government of Nueva Vizcaya also made clear their strong opposition to the renewal of the FTAA of Oceana Gold and stand firm that their operations be now halted for having no license or permit to continue their mining activities;

WHEREAS, this representation, in consultation with the Novo Vizcayanos, wrote His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte informing him of our clear stand that the FTAA of Oceana Gold Corporation should not be renewed and that their operations should be stopped;

WHEREAS, confirmed reports received by this representation, Oceana Gold Corporation attempted for several times to bring in fuel tanks for the continued operations last March 2020 inspite of their expired FTAA;

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2020, as reported by the Alyansa ng Novo Vizcayano Para sa Kalikasan (ANVIK), a non-government organization working for the protection of our environment, a large number of policemen arrived at Barangay Didipio, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya informing and providing the people of said barangay that a letter allegedly issued by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea allowing the entry of fuel tanks for the operation of Oceana Gold;

WHEREAS, it must be seriously considered that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation Number 922, s. 2020, dated March 8, 2020 declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) and the Code of Alert System was raised to Code Red Sublevel Two. Further, Proclamation Number 929, s. 2020 was also issued by the President declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines and Imposed an Enhanced Community Quarantine throughout Luzon;

WHEREAS, in view of the imposition of Enhanced Community Quarantine all over Luzon, operations of companies were ordered shut down, except for establishments or companies providing basic necessities, those related to food and medicine production, i.e., supermarkets, groceries, public markets, hospitals, medical clinics, pharmacies and drug stores, food preparation and delivery services, convenience stores, water refilling stations and deliveries, manufacturing and processing plants of basic food products, medicines, banks, money transfer services, power, energy, water, telecommunications supplies and facilities, shall be allowed to open;

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2020, amid the strict implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine, brought about by the 2019 Corona Virus Disease, at least one hundred (100) policemen wearing riot gears have escorted, dismantled the barricade set up by the residents of Didipio and forcibly and violently dispersed a number of people manning said barricade, allowed the entry of three (3) fuel tankers into the mining site of Oceana Gold;


WHEREAS, the dispersal made against the twenty-nine (29) people manning the barricade as described by the local leaders in the area, was attended by excessive and unnecessary violence;

WHEREAS, besides the violent dispersal, the Philippine National Police also arrested Roland Pulido, Chairman of Didipio Earth Savers Movement Association and Elena Calingayan and Nardo Pugong, resident of Didipio;

WHEREAS, with the strong opposition of the Barangay Leaders, Municipal and Provincial Officials, different non-government organizations of the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, and inspite of the strict implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine, the Oceana Gold Mining Company blatantly defied the COVID 19 Protocol, and worst the foreign company was even assisted by our own Philippine National Police who are supposed to "Serve and Protect" the Filipino people, especially during this time of Public Health Emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, to investigate, in aid of legislation, the unwanted dismantling of the barricade and violent dispersal of the people manning the same, and the escorting of Philippine National Police of the tankers that supplied fuels for the illegal operation of Oceana Gold.

Adopted,


LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA