



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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House Bill No. 1405

Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is blessed with large quantities of mineral resources valued at over \$1 trillion making it the 5th most mineralized country in the world. But despite sitting on vast reserves, the country is unable to maximize these endowments due mainly to the negative public perception towards the mining industry.

Fears expressed by different groups are not unfounded considering that mining had caused glaring damages to the environment and several unforgettable tragedies. Another concern is the government's lukewarm attitude largely due to the insignificant contribution of mining to the national economy.

However, to sit idly on our precious mineral resources in view of the challenges should not be an option. Instead, the government must provide support to this ailing industry by allocating resources for the development of technologies and practices that will make mining activities more environmentally- and socially-sound; and enable us to maximize the use of minerals for industrialization. It is for this reason that the creation of the National Research Center for Sustainable Mineral Industry (NRCSMI) is being sought.

The NRCSMI is envisioned to be the lead research body of the government for the minerals industry. It shall focus on the development of mining and mineral processing technologies, formulation of relevant policies, and promotion of sustainable mining practices.

It is hoped that through the NRCSMI mining activities in the country will become more responsible and ultimately more acceptable to the people. It shall be instrumental in unlocking the huge potential of mining to bring inclusive growth to the people, especially those living in the countryside.

In view of the forgoing, I hereby request for the approval of this bill.

[Signature]
ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE



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House Bill No. 1405

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AN ACT
CREATING THE NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR
SUSTAINABLE MINERAL INDUSTRY AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the
"**National Research Center for Sustainable Mineral Industry Act.**"

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the
following terms are hereby defined:

- a. Mineral industry – shall refer to activities related to mining and mineral processing;
- b. Mining – shall refer to activities related to the excavation of valuable ores or minerals from the Earth's crust;
- c. Mineral processing – shall refer to milling, beneficiation, leaching, smelting, cyanidation, calcination or upgrading of ores, minerals, rocks, mill tailings, mine waste and/or other metallurgical by-products or by similar means to convert the same into marketable products.

SECTION 3. *Creation of the National Research Center for Sustainable Mineral Industry.* There is hereby created a non-stock, non-profit corporate entity to be known as the National Research Center for Sustainable Mineral Industry, hereinafter referred to as the NRCSMI, which shall lead in the research and development of sustainable practices and technologies in the mineral industry.

The NRCSMI shall be an attached agency of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

SECTION 4. *Objectives and Functions.* The NRCSMI shall have the following objectives and functions:

- a. Develop and promote the application of environmentally-sound, efficient, and economical mineral exploration, extraction and processing, and mine rehabilitation technologies and socially-acceptable practices both for large-scale and small-scale miners with the aim of transforming the minerals industry into a key contributor to national industrialization;
- b. Serve as the primary think-tank for the national government and local government units (LGUs) in the formulation and implementation of policies related to the mineral industry;
- c. Create linkages with different local and foreign research bodies, academic institutions, advocacy groups, business groups, and civil society organizations in order to facilitate and promote exchanges of ideas and knowledge related to sustainable mining and mineral processing;
- d. Coordinate with the Professional Regulatory Commission and the Commission on Higher Education in the enhancement of mining engineering and metallurgical engineering curricula to ensure that these are progressive and responsive to the growing needs of the mineral industry; and,
- e. Promote advanced learning and research related to mining and metallurgy through scholarships and research grants.

SECTION 5. *NRCSMI Board of Trustees.* The NRCSMI shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, composed of the following:

- a. Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, as Chairman;
- b. Director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau;
- c. Executive Director of the NRCSMI;
- d. A representative of the Department of Trade and Industry, to be designated permanently for one year by the Department;
- e. A representative of the Board of Investments, to be designated permanently for one year by the Board;
- f. A representative of the National Economic Development Authority, to be designated permanently for one year by the Authority;
- g. Two (2) representatives from the private sector representing the large-scale mining and mineral processing industries to be appointed by the Secretary of Science and Technology;

- h. Two (2) representatives from the academe, who are experts in the study of mining and metallurgy, to be appointed by the Secretary of Science and Technology;
- i. One (1) representative from the small-scale miners, with at least three (3) years of experience in the industry, to be appointed by the Secretary of Science and Technology.

Each representative from the private sector, small-scale miners, and the academe shall serve for three (3) years and until his/her successor shall have been appointed: *Provided*, That no vacancy shall be filled except for the unexpired portion of any term. The presence of five (5) members constitutes a quorum.

SECTION 6. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* The Board, in addition to its general corporate powers, shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- a. Formulate plans and programs and promulgate such policies, procedures, rules and regulations as may be necessary for the effective operation of the NRCSMI;
- b. Receive, administer, dispose of, and disburse the funds of the NRCSMI;
- c. Receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of whatever kind given to the NRCSMI;
- d. Appoint, and in proper cases, take disciplinary action against the personnel and staff of the NRCSMI and set their compensation, terms of office, and other conditions of employment subject to existing rules and regulations;
- e. Enter into contracts for and in behalf of the NRCSMI; and,
- f. Exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Executive Director of the NRCSMI.* The Executive Director of the NRCSMI shall be appointed by the Secretary of Science and Technology.

SECTION 8. *Personnel and Staff.* The NRCSMI Executive Director shall appoint such other personnel and staff as may be necessary for the effective operation of the NRCSMI subject to existing rules and regulations.

SECTION 9. *Involvement of the Academe.* The NRCSMI shall ensure the active involvement of the academe in its research and development endeavors to promote and advance the study of the mineral industry all across the country.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of Science and Technology shall issue rules and regulations as he/she may deem necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 11. *Appropriation.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,