

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 145, March 10, 2006]

CREATING A FACT-FINDING COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE MINING OPERATIONS OF LAFAYETTE PHILIPPINES, INC. ON PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF RAPU-RAPU, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY AND PRIETO DIAZ, GUBAT, BARCELONA, BULUSAN, AND BACON, IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON

WHEREAS, there have been reports that the mining operations of Lafayette Philippines, Inc. (LPI) on Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay Province allegedly threatens people's health and environmental safety in and around the area of Rapu-Rapu Island;

WHEREAS, there is need for an independent Fact-Finding Commission to be constituted in order to get the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged health and environmental hazards brought about by the operations of Lafayette Philippines, and to make the appropriate recommendations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a Fact-Finding Commission to investigate the effects of the mining operations of Lafayette Philippines, Inc. (LPI) on the inhabitants and environment of Rapu-Rapu Island and nearby municipalities. Specifically, the Commission shall investigate reported incidents of fish kill and other damage to people's health and marine and agricultural areas in Rapu-Rapu Island, Albay, and Prieto Diaz, Gubat, Barcelona, Bulusan and Bacon, Sorsogon.

SECTION 2. The Commission shall be composed of the following:

Chairman Bishop Arturo M. Bastes, SVD, DD

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Members Dr. Rodolfo A. Tamayo, Jr.

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Atty. Nena Araya Santos

Atty. Ronaldo R. Gutierrez

Mr. Greogio Tabuena

Dr. Aloysius Baes

Mr. Charles Avila

Bishop Jose Rojas, Jr.

Mr. Jojit G. Cañada

Mrs. Marilou D. Barcela