

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 270, January 16, 2004]

NATIONAL POLICY AGENDA ON REVITALIZING MINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XII of the Constitution provides that the goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged; and that in the pursuit of these goals, all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop;

WHEREAS, Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution provides that the exploration, development and utilization of mineral resources shall be under the control and supervision of the State and Section 16, Article II thereof provides that it is the State's policy to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has potentially vast mineral resources that can be utilized for economic development and poverty alleviation, especially in the rural areas;

WHEREAS, Section 2, Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 (Mining Act), provides that it shall be the responsibility of the State to promote the rational exploration, development, utilization and conservation of mineral resources through the concerted efforts of Government and private sector, in order to enhance national growth in a way that effectively safeguards the environment and protects the right of affected communities;

WHEREAS, paragraph 46 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) provides that mining, minerals and metals are important to the economic and social development of many countries and that in order to enhance their contribution to sustainable development, there is a need to address the environmental, economic, health and social impacts and benefits and enhance the participation of stakeholders throughout the life cycles of mining operations;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Mining Act provides that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall be the primary Government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's mineral resources.

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the Government to promote responsible mineral resources exploration, development and utilization, in order to enhance economic growth, in a manner that adheres to the principles of