

[Commonwealth Act No. 136, November 07, 1936]

AN ACT CREATING THE BUREAU OF MINES.

Be it enacted by the National Assembly of the Philippines:

SECTION 1. For the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act, there is hereby created under the Department of Agriculture and Commerce an office to be known as the Bureau of Mines.

SEC. 2. The Bureau of Mines shall have one Chief to be known as the Director of Mines who shall be appointed by the President, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly. There shall be in the said Bureau such experts and other employees to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce as may be required to carry out the purposes of this Act and of the Mining Act.

Subject to the general supervision and control of the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, the Director of Mines shall possess the powers generally conferred upon Bureau Chiefs.

SEC. 3. The Director shall carry out the provisions of this Act and all laws pertaining to the administration and disposition of mines, minerals, and mineral lands, and of the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, and in general, shall promote the development of the mining industry of the country, as follows:

The Director of Mines shall—

- a. Make topographic and geological surveys of the Philippines.
- b. Collect and disseminate information, and conduct pertinent investigations concerning mining administration and operation, the utilization of minerals, and the establishment of mineral industries.
- c. Conduct studies of mining practices and methods relating to protection of life and property, economy of operation, prevention of waste, and disseminate the results and information in appropriate bulletins or circulars.
- d. Conduct investigations relative to ore dressing and metallurgical processes with a view to opening new avenues of development and utilization of valuable minerals from their ores.
- e. Perform work on assaying and smelting and on testing and identification of rocks and minerals.
- f. Establish and operate a refining plant for the purpose of refining, and purifying, smelting, and treating gold, silver, copper, iron and other products of mines.
- g. Conduct geologic investigations relative to mine engineering, construction, and planning.
- h. Have direct supervision and control of the work and the office of mining recorders.
- i. Keep records of mining locations, leases, patents, and permits, including transfers and assignments thereof, and of all records and archives of existing