

KEYNOTE SPEECH - SEC. MARIA ANTONIA
YULO-LOYZAGA TO BE DELIVERED BY USEC. CARLOS
PRIMO DAVID
Digging Deeper: A Mining Philippines Policy Forum
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MESSAGE

Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and friends,

It is a privilege to address you all today at this important forum, “Digging Deeper: A Mining Philippines Policy Forum”. A forum that brings together a diverse group of industry experts, investors, and professionals to discuss the future of mining in the Philippines and its role in building a sustainable, resilient future for our nation.

The Philippines stands at a critical intersection, where the global demand for critical minerals continues to grow, and the urgency for a low-carbon transition has never been more urgent. Mining is poised to be an essential contributor in this transition, not just as a driver of economic growth but as a key player in the development of clean energy technologies—from batteries to solar panels and wind turbines. The importance of sustainable mining is no longer just an industry conversation—it is a national and global imperative.

The policy discussions we will engage in today are essential to

ensuring that our mining sector remains globally competitive while adopting practices that are responsible and forward-looking. This includes strengthening the frameworks around critical minerals, improving operational efficiency, and addressing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) challenges.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting a sustainable mining industry that contributes to the well being of our people and the protection of our environment. We continue to support the advancement of responsible mining practices that contribute to community development and environmental protection, ensuring that the wealth of our natural resources benefits both the present and future generations.

Sustainability and economic success are not mutually exclusive. In fact, the minerals that lie beneath our land hold the key to a clean energy future, and the mining industry is a critical part of this transition. With the right policies, technologies, and partnerships, we can harness this potential responsibly, benefiting not only the industry but also the communities who rely on it for their livelihoods.

Through regulations like DENR Administrative Order No. 2022-04 and the Philippine Ec system and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), we e ensuring that mining operations are aligned with both economic goals and

environmental protection. These frameworks guarantee that mining's contribution to socio-economic development includes a deep commitment to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.

Looking ahead, we must continue to invest in low-carbon solutions and nature-based strategies to ensure that mining becomes a force for climate resilience and sustainable progress. Already, with initiatives like the Mining Forest Program, which has planted over 55 million seedlings, we see how mining can contribute to climate adaptation and the reduction of disaster risks in our communities.

In closing, I urge each of you to continue digging deeper—not just into the ground but into the potential of this industry to fuel a dynamic, sustainable future for our nation. Together, we can ensure that mining remains a pillar of economic growth while upholding the highest standards of environmental and social responsibility.

Thank you, and mabuhay.