

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2313, June 19, 1959]

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF MINES TO ENTER INTO AN OPERATING CONTRACT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, EXPLORATION, PROCESSING AND DISPOSITION OF THE MINERALS IN THE GOVERNMENT MINERAL RESERVATION AT THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MASINLOC AND CANDELARIA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Recognizing the importance to the national economy of the immediate development, exploration, utilization, processing and disposition by private enterprise of the mineral deposits in the Zambales Mineral Reservations, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Government to engage private enterprise in the development, exploration, processing and disposition of the minerals therefrom.

SEC. 2. The Director of Mines is hereby authorized to enter into an operating contract, through public bidding, with any qualified, competent and responsible domestic party or parties possessing all the qualifications under section three hereof, for the development and operation of the government chromite reservations described and known as Parcels of Land numbers one, two and three thereof, set aside as such by Proclamation Numbered Three hundred thirteen dated April twenty-four, nineteen hundred and thirty of the then Governor General of the Philippine Islands, such contract to be executed by the Director of Mines with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

SEC. 3. No private enterprise can be a party to the operating contract, referred to in section two hereof, unless he/it possesses, at the time of the bid and award, all of the following qualifications, namely, that such party:

- a. Is qualified under section one, Article XIII of the Constitution to exploit, develop and utilize the natural resources of the Philippines;
- b. Has been engaged in the business of mining for at least ten (10) years;
- c. Has already capital or if a corporation, a paid-up capital of at least five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) ; and
- d. Has available the necessary machineries, equipment, and competent technical staff and facilities for undertaking the economical and efficient development and operation of the Zambales Mineral Reservations and the Processing of the ores mined therefrom.

SEC. 4. At least sixty (60) days before the scheduled date for the opening of the sealed bids, the Director of Mines shall publish once a week for three consecutive ks