

# DOF to assess DENR's mining ban's impact

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The Department of Finance (DOF) said Friday that it is set to assess the impact of the closure and suspension orders on several mining operations nationwide. Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said the economic team and other cabinet members will assess the potential impact of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) mining ban on jobs, revenue collection and the economy. "I have to consult with other economic managers [regarding the DENR order, but] my primary concern is the impact on employees, secondary concern is the impact on municipal finances because municipalities collect a lot of taxes," Dominguez told reporters. The finance chief cited that in one mining company alone in Surigao, about 10,000 people will be displaced. For this reason, Dominguez said the government has to put in place emergency employment programs for displaced employees. "I have asked members of the Cabinet if they have in place emergency employment programs," Dominguez said. The Department of Social Welfare and Development is now looking into the mining case, while the Department of Public Works and Highways plans to accelerate projects implementation to accommodate more employees, he said. Likewise, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will initiate emergency employment programs, Dominguez said. He also said the government will convene next week the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), a body tasked to formulate the implementing rules and regulations for Executive Order 79, also known as the new mining policy.

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