

## **DENR seeks to address gender gap in mining**

By: Danessa Rivera - The Philippine Star

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2023/03/12/2250964/denr-seeks-address-gender-gap-mining->

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is looking to address gender gap in the mining sector amid various challenges faced by women in the sector.

“We will be revisiting the Philippine Mining Act (and) we will be looking at this in tandem with the Magna Carta for Women,” DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said in a recent luncheon hosted by the Philippine Mining Club.

She cited a 2020 scoping study commissioned by the Philippine- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) which laid down key issues women face in the mining industry.

In the study, the DENR chief said women constitute a minority of the workforce, with only a few occupying technical and leadership positions in mining companies.

The environmental problems linked to mining operations such as pollution of rivers and drying up of water sources puts pressures on women as household managers and as providers.

The study also noted the lack of a sustainable livelihood outside employment of mining companies.

There is also an absence of guidelines on the inclusions of gender responsive projects in the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) and the minimum participation of women in the development of these programs, according to the study.

Finally, there are gaps in the context and implementation of policies and frameworks to address gender dimensions in the mining industry.

“We hope there will be a more in depth and a more comprehensive look at gender and mining. There is a need to ensure women’s representation in the mining industry is meaningful in all levels of decision making,” Loyzaga said.

She urged the mining industry to work together to ensure that the sector becomes an enabling and empowering environment for women.

“We hope this would include rescaling, upscaling, strengthening education to motivate women to pursue careers that are very important and related to this industry,” she said.

In its own backyard, the DENR is working on mainstreaming gender and development (GAD) into its policies.

“Within this year, you will hear something from us in terms of gender,” Loyzaga said.