

Duterte gives full support to DENR chief's pro-people, pro-poor policy

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Environment Secretary Gina Lopez enjoy the full support of President Rodrigo R. Duterte for her “pro-people, pro-poor” policy following the closure of irresponsible mining companies.



[File] Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Sec. Gina Lopez (MB Photo |Camille Ante)

The President said he has never directed Lopez to “slow down” in the enforcement of the country’s mining laws but asked her to keep it fair and lawful.

“I’ve read in the newspapers that Secretary Gina Lopez canceled about seven of the big mining firms in the country. You know, I support her,” the President said during the convention of Philippine Association of Water Districts in Davao City.

“There never a time that I called her to slow down a little bit because on one hand is the strict implementation of the mining laws,” he added.

Duterte said Lopez has been “very adamant” about closing mining firms supposedly destroying the environment in their areas of operations.

“She (has) the pro-people, pro-poor policies that I said when I took her in, you can have your way, just be fair and make it legal. That’s about the only standard that you follow, what is legal and what is fair,” he added.

Early in the day, Lopez ordered the closure of 21 mining firms for allegedly causing the siltation of coastal waters and destruction of watersheds in their areas of operations.

Lopez said she is not opposed to mining but she is against the abuse of resources to the detriment of the environment and the community.

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