

# Palace: Mining firms facing closure to get ‘due process’

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Mining companies facing closure for environmental violations will be given another chance to challenge the state audit or mend their ways.

President Duterte and his Cabinet have agreed to observe “due process” in dealing with the mining issue during a recent meeting in Malacañang, according to spokesman Ernesto Abella.



President Duterte on the 12th Cabinet Meeting last February 7, 2017.

(Photo courtesy of Philippine News Agency / MANILA BULLETIN)

“This means companies affected by mining closures for violations of environmental laws and regulations will be given the opportunity to respond or dispute with the audit or make the necessary remedies to ensure compliance with government standards,” Abella said.

The latest decision was reached after the mining industry appealed to the government to reconsider what they see as an arbitrary closure and suspension of 28 mining operations.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) earlier sent a letter to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III expressing concern about the impact of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources's (DENR) order on the economy and employment.

Environment Secretary Regina Lopez recently ordered the closure of 28 mines following violations of the country's laws. Five more mining enterprises were ordered to suspend operations. The order was a result of a government audit on the mining operations in the country.

The President, who earlier said the country could survive without a mining ministry, has thrown his support behind the pro-poor, pro-people policy of Lopez.

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