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## Correa Signs the Regulation for the New Mining Law

Yesterday, in Zaruma, located in the province of El Oro, President Rafael Correa signed the Regulations to apply the heavily debated Mining Law, which will give way to the controlled activity.

“The future of Ecuador is based on sustainable mining that does not contaminate,” said the President. He arrived in this canton after 3:30 p.m., accompanied by the Minister of Non-Renewable Natural Resources, Germanico Pinto and the Minister of Strategic Sectors, Galo Borja. “We will never go backwards with the Mining Law, because the sustainable development of mining is fundamental for the development of the country,” said Correa during the act held at San Juan Bosco School.

There, the Prefect of El Oro, Montgomery Sanchez Reyes; the President of the Consortium of Provincial Councils of Ecuador, the Governor of El Oro, Edgar Cordova and the Assembly Representatives, Victor Quirola and Carlos Zambrano were waiting for the President.

Miners from the provinces of El Oro, Loja and Zamora Chinchipe, which were holding up banners supporting the government, gave the President standing ovations on several occasions. Correa defended the need for the sectors related to the exploitation of nonrenewable cultural heritages, like petroleum and minerals, to be under the control of the government.

He said that opposing mining is absurd, because it is a necessary activity, and it has strict environmental controls. He mentioned cases like Cuba and Bolivia, where they have mining exploitation based on integral policies for the economic development for the people. “Our law protects the environment, water, the government and Ecuadorians, because it creates the National Mining Company, which will take part in the mining exploitation, contributing directly to the treasury,” he said.

He emphasized that the law has been properly distributed, however, “there continues to be opposition from some fundamentalist groups that don’t understand that we live in a democratic country here in Ecuador, where we will watch out for the common good of the people, and not the infantile fundamentalism of some people.”