

# Of Construction and Excavations: An Examination of the Power of Judicial Review in Light of *La Bugal B'laan*

Rodolfo Ma. A. Ponferrada

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The Article posits that the fate of the country and countless millions of Filipinos rested on the differing and contrary interpretations by the three co-equal branches of government of one particular constitutional provision, Art. 12, sec. 2 of the Constitution. Firstly, the Article gives some background on constitutional government and the interplay of the three political departments. It then provides a background on the La Bugal B'laan case. Then, constitutional construction is explained. The Article concludes by saying that the enactment of the Mining Act of 1995 and the promulgation of its implementing rules and regulations, coupled with the execution of FTAA's pursuant to the same, signaled the direction which the political departments of government have decided to take in paving the path towards unlocking the way to the country's natural resources. It argues that the continuously growing reach of judicial review has placed an obstacle on the path to progress. Some weight must be given on the actions taken by the political departments of government, in light of the differences of interpretation of the constitutional provision.