



**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Prime Minister

No. 06/PM  
Vientiane Capital, 07 March 2025

**Order**  
**on Monitoring, Inspection and Resolution**  
**of Issues of Alluvial Gold, Gravel and Sand in Rivers, Streams**  
**and Management of Mining Operations Countrywide**

- Pursuant to the Law on Minerals No. 31/NA, dated 03 November 2017;
- Pursuant to the Law on Government No. 03/NA, dated 16 November 2021;
- Pursuant to the National Assembly's Resolution on Approval of Vision 2040 and Strategy on Mineral Development toward 2030 No. 95/NA, dated 18 July 2023;
- Referring to the Results of the Second Open Meeting the Government on 6-7 January 2025;
- Referring to the Notification of the Central Party Office No. 12/CPO, dated 04 February 2025.

In order to strengthen the implementation of the management, inspection and resolution of mineral development issues including alluvial gold ore, gravel and sand suction throughout the country to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations set out in each period,

**The Prime Minister**  
**Issues the Order as follows:**

1. Permanently stop the issuance of permit for the extraction of alluvial gold in all forms throughout the country. All ministries, ministry-equivalent organizations and local authorities of all levels shall perform as follows:
  - 1) Relevant ministries and local authorities countrywide are strictly prohibited to create loose conditions of all forms for the extraction of alluvial gold in river basin that is the development project area to be flooded, create special project, including suction of gravel and sand by using screen, machinery, shaking table, tools and equipment along the banks of rivers, streams and in the paddy fields for the purpose of extracting the alluvial gold.
  - 2) Conduct the inspection and apply measures against all cases of unauthorized extraction of alluvial gold, suction of gravel and sand (for taking advantage to extract alluvial gold) in the whole country.
  - 3) Regarding alluvial gold projects previously approved by the Government and local authority which are currently in the process of mining, the concerned companies shall be convened to the settlement negotiation in order to cease the project operations. However,

before handing over the area to the Government, the companies must carry out the rehabilitation of the area and environment to render such area to its normal condition under the close monitoring of the relevant state agency in order to firmly avoid occurrence of opportunistic act in any form.

- 4) Regarding alluvial gold projects of the companies which have made advance payment of concession fees and natural resources fees to the Government, but have not yet signed the concession agreement, such concession agreement will not be allowed to be signed. The Ministry of Finance is assigned to collaborate with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and relevant parties to jointly review the obligations stipulated in the agreement and the amount of money to be refunded to the companies (if any) or to be used to offset the obligations of the companies to be paid to the Government in other projects.
2. Speed up the transformation of trial mining project into regular mechanism in strict compliance with the provisions of the laws as prescribed in the Notification No. 978/PMO, dated 22 May 2024, such as: before carrying out the extraction and processing operations, the company must fully complete the mineral exploration, economic-technical feasibility study and environmental and social impact assessment activities and then the mining license can be issued to the company. Meanwhile, consideration of the request for transfer or change of other area with trial mineral concession project must be definitely stopped.
3. Continue to suspend the consideration and approval of new mineral projects for metallic minerals up to the end of the IX<sup>th</sup> Government term, except for certain poor localities and the decision of the higher authority will be specified in a specific regulation. During the period of suspension of issuance of permit for new metallic mineral project, the sector agencies and local authorities should pay attention to the following tasks:
  - 1) Strengthen the management, monitoring of the environmental impacts by strictly complying with the Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
  - 2) Strengthen the management, monitoring of the transportation of minerals, especially the management of all types of transport vehicle weight and the fulfillment of budget obligation for maintenance, repair and upgrade of road of each category by strictly complying with the regulations set out by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.
  - 3) For the projects of prospection and exploration cooperation between the company and the Geology and Mineral Department and between the company and other sectors: (1) avoid having new additional cooperation project, (2) for existing projects, when the period is expired, the MOU shall not be renewed and data obtained from the study shall not be used as privilege for applying for signing agreement with the Government, but shall be handed to the Government who shall have the privilege to make consideration and approval on the granting of investment license through auction or other forms as in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

#### 4. Order Implementation Measures.

- 1) The Ministry of Energy and Mines shall be the focal point in collaborating with concerned parties to research and revise the measures of management of gold mineral products of each project according to the procedure of the law, from the stage of production, transportation and distribution of mineral products; conduct research and consultation with investors to allow equity participation by Government. Regarding other minerals, conduct thorough inspection of mineral project site of each type with risk of illegal mining and urgently carry out the survey and make the plan for management in compliance with the laws and regulations with the participation of relevant sector agencies, both of central and local levels.
- 2) The Ministry of Planning and Investment shall be the focal point in collaborating with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, relevant sector agencies and local authorities across the country to continue conducting the follow-up of mineral projects countrywide. In case a project is found to undertake unlawful mining operations, violate the concession agreement, generate environment and social impacts, a notice of temporary suspension of activity shall be issued to such project. After that, the Ministry of Planning and Investment shall issue the warning notice to the company for making improvement and remedy by submitting a clear improvement plan. If such company fails to improve and remedy on given time, the proposal shall be submitted to the Government to terminate the agreement and withdraw the project.
- 3) The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment shall take the lead in collaborating with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Public Works and Transport and relevant sector agencies of both central and local levels to conduct inspection of the environmental and social impacts associated with the extraction, transportation of mineral resources. In case of finding the case of non-compliance with measures prescribed in the Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan and causing environmental and social impacts, actions shall be taken in strict compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- 4) The Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Ministry of National Defense shall continue to closely collaborate in inspecting and solving the alluvial gold, gravel and sand extraction issues to close the gap, avoiding all forms of opportunistic acts to extract the alluvial gold that will cause impact to natural environment. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport shall also collaborate with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and Ministry of Finance to monitor the mineral transportation weight at the start point.
- 5) The Ministry of Finance shall pay attention to strictly implement the laws and regulations related to finance, such as: fraud, encroachment, illegal trading, unlawful state assets transfer, non-fulfillment of agreement obligations; focus on inspection of annual accounts of the mining projects, especially the collection of profit tax and other related taxes and duties as well as coordinate with concerned parties to evaluate the benefits and losses in the generation of revenue from mining operations comparing to the total domestic revenue collected; research and formulate policies and legislations on taxes and duties as

well as monitor the mineral weight at destination point (customs checkpoint) and regularly provide data to the relevant sectors.

- 6) Concerned parties of each level shall create the conditions to enable the involvement of all parties in the society in monitoring, providing information on the status of illegal mining operations, environmental and social impact situation to the relevant sectors regularly. In case of finding the case of violation of laws and relevant legislations, they must inform the relevant state authority by all forms including via the media and various means. Upon receiving the data, the relevant state authority shall urgently carry out actual inspection and timely solve the issue. In case true violation is found, measures shall be taken to address the issue in a strictly and absolutely manner. At the same time, the Ministry of Energy and Mines shall collaborate with the Ministry of Finance and relevant parties to research on the reasonable form of award and benefit sharing from the fine for the informants.
- 7) Vientiane Capital, provincial administrative authorities and all parties shall be assigned to proactively implement the laws and legislations related to minerals in a strictly manner. In case an illegal extraction of alluvial gold is found in a locality, the local authority of such level shall be assigned to take the responsibility in accordance with the laws and regulations. Meanwhile, it is urgently required to conduct the inspection, collection of data and address the illegal mineral resources exploitation, taking possession, trading, activities or business operations of the individuals, legal entities. In case of not receiving the authorization or receiving the authorization that is not conformed with the laws, such operations shall be stopped, cancelled and removed, and measures shall be taken against the offenders in strict compliance with the laws; continue to proactively and strictly prevent, obstruct all forms of illegal mining operations. In case the mineral-related social phenomenon is occurred in a locality, such locality shall be assigned to proactively solve the issue expeditiously, strictly and resolutely by using appropriate measures (administrative, economic and legal measures) against the offending individuals, legal entities or organizations. Meanwhile, it is required to urgently summarize and regularly report on the progress of implementation to the Government for information and for seeking directives through the Cabinet of the Prime Minister's Office.
- 8) The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism shall summarize the mining operations impacts on tourism sites that may affect the natural, cultural and historical tourism resources, and shall take the lead to closely collaborate with the Ministry of Energy and Mines to jointly conduct the inspection and put into place the protection measures.
- 9) All Ministers, Heads of ministry-equivalent organizations, Vientiane Capital Mayor, Provincial Governors countrywide shall study and have thorough understanding of this Order as well as urgently translate it into detailed tasks accordingly to their respective responsibilities and ensure implementation of these tasks effectively. In case of violation of this Order by a sector or locality, the leaders of such sector or locality shall be held responsible for the provisions stipulated in the laws and regulations.

5. All Orders, Decisions, Notifications and other legislations of the sectors and local authorities which were previously promulgated that are in conflict with this Order shall be repealed. This Order is effective from the date it is signed.

**Prime Minister**

(signature & seal)

**Sonexay Siphandone**