

UGANDA

THE MINERAL POLICY

1. The Goal

To develop the mineral sector, in order to contribute significantly to social and economic growth of Uganda.

2. Policy Objectives

In order to address the key issues in the mineral sector, Government has put in place the Mineral policy with a view to attract and enable the private sector take lead in exploration, mine development, mineral beneficiation and marketing. The role of the Government is to stimulate and guide private mining investment by providing adequate basic geological and other data administering, regulating and promoting sustainable growth of the sector. Accordingly, the Government policy objectives for the mineral sector are:

- (i) to stimulate investment in the mineral sector by promoting private participation;
- (ii) to ensure that mineral wealth supports national economic and social development;
- (iii) to regularise and improve artisanal and small scale mining.,
- (iv) to minimise and mitigate the adverse social and environment impact of mineral exploitation;
- (v) to encourage women participation in the mineral sector and discourage child labour;
- (vi) to strengthen the national capacity in manpower and institutional infrastructure; and
- (vii) to increase mineral trade and exports.

3. Policy Principles and Strategies

In order to achieve the goal, the Government has formulated principles and strategies for each of the objectives as below:

3.1. Objective 1: To stimulate investment in the mineral sector by promoting private participation

Principles:

Government shall:

- (i) acquire basic geo-scientific data and disseminate it free of charge, except for reproduction costs.
- (ii) put in place a stable, predictable and competitive fiscal and legal environments for the - Sector.

Strategies:

Government shall:

- (a) review and put in place an investor-friendly legal framework;
- (b) institute and maintain a progressive and predictable tax regime with well-defined parameters;
- (c) involve stakeholders in the formulation of the mineral policy and its legislation;
- (d) carry out geological, geochemical and geophysical surveys of the entire country at different scales;
- (e) oblige private operators in the sector to provide acquired geo-scientific data at appropriate stages for enhancing the national databank;
- (f) process, analyse and interpret geo-scientific data;
- (g) archive, package and disseminate data through print and electronic media;
- (h) avail mineral prospects to investors; and
- (i) facilitate easy access to land.

3.2. Objective 2: To ensure that mineral wealth supports national economic and social development

Principle:

Government shall ensure equitable sharing of revenue from the mineral resources.

Strategy:

Government shall levy and collect royalties and fees but share royalties equitably share them between the Central and Local Governments.

3.3. Objective 3: To regularise and improve artisanal and small-scale mining

Principle:

Government shall encourage artisanal and small-scale miners to form associations and other organisations in order to improve their production and marketing capacity.

Strategies:

Government shall:

- (a) apply light-handed regulation in small- scale mining;
- (b) provide information on available production and marketing facilities;
- (c) maintain a continuous dialogue with miners' organisation(s) to address matters of small-scale mining; and
- (d) carry out awareness campaigns targeting the artisanal and small-scale miners;

3.4. Objective 4: To minimise and mitigate the adverse social and environment impacts of mineral exploitation

Principles:

Government shall ensure:

- (i) that there is compliance with the existing laws and regulations on the environment; and
- (ii) the protection of human health and safety-

Strategies:

Government shall:

- (a) strengthen the environmental monitoring unit of the Lead Agency;
- (b) carry out sensitisation of the society on the impact of mining on environment;
- (c) encourage the application of environmentally friendly technologies and methods in mineral exploitation;
- (d) draw up and establish health and safety regulations in mining and formulate preventive measures against accidents and other human health and safety hazards;
- (e) strengthen and enforce health and safety regulations in all stages of mineral development; and
- (f) enforce improvement of health, sanitation and safety education and encourage investment in health care facilities, e.g. dispensaries and clinics in mining areas

3.5. Objective 5: To encourage women participation in the mineral sector and discourage child labour

Principle:

Government shall promote affirmative action in favour of women and prohibit child labour in mining.

Strategies:

Government shall:

- (a) encourage employment and involvement of women in mineral development activities;
- (b) encourage the formation of women mining associations or groups; and
- (c) enforce regulations against child labour and exposure in mining.

3.6 Objective 6: To strengthen the national capacity in manpower and institutional infrastructure

Principle:

Government shall develop human and infrastructure resources in the mineral sector.

Strategies:

Government shall:

- (a) put in place a functional structure of the Department;
- (b) provide sufficient funds for the Department to operate;
- (c) recruit, train and maintain staff in the Department;
- (d) rehabilitate and maintain all laboratories and other infrastructures in the Department;
- (e) expand the Department by setting up and facilitating regional offices; and
- (f) encourage the employment and training of Ugandans by the private sector.

3.7. Objective 7: To increase mineral trade and exports

Principle:

Government shall promote and facilitate trade in minerals

Strategies:

Government shall:

- (a) license mineral dealers;
- (b) avail market information;
- (c) assist in the determination of the mineral values; and
- (d) conduct awareness campaigns for stakeholders and other law enforcement agencies.

References

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6. The Mineral Policy of Uganda, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Republic of Uganda