

NIGERIA MINING CADASTRE OFFICE

NOTICE OF REOPENING OF ONLINE ELECTRONIC MINING CADASTRAL PLUS (eMC+) PORTAL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF MINERAL TITLES IN ZAMFARA STATE EFFECTIVE FROM 18TH DECEMBER 2025

Notice is hereby given to all Mineral Title holders and prospective applicants for the grant of Mineral Titles in Zamfara State, mining stakeholders, and the general public that, following the lifting of the ban on mining activities in Zamfara State, the Honourable Minister of Solid Minerals Development has approved a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the issuance of Mineral Titles and regulation of mining activities in Zamfara State.

The overall objective of the SOP is to ensure a seamless and transparent process for issuing and administering mineral titles, and regularizing mining activities in Zamfara State that aligns with national security objectives and economic development goals.

In furtherance of this objective, all holders of Mineral Titles in Zamfara State, prospective investors desirous of acquiring Mineral Titles in the State, and the general public are requested to take notice and comply with the provisions of the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 (the Act) and Nigerian Minerals and Mining Regulations 2011 (the Regulation) and in addition ensure compliance with the following provisions of the SOP.

PART 1: MINERAL TITLE ADMINISTRATION

1.0 Assessing and Regularizing Mineral Titles Issued Before the 2019 Ban on Mining Activities in Zamfara State

1.1 Categorization of Mineral Titles and Applications

The Mineral Titles in Zamfara State, before the 2019 ban, are categorized as follows:

- i. **Revoked Mineral Titles:** Titles revoked during the ban period.
- ii. **Expired Mineral Titles:** Titles whose validity period lapsed during the ban period
- iii. **Valid Mineral Titles:** Titles that remain active throughout the ban period
- iv. **Pending Applications:** Applications that were made before, during the ban, and after lifting the ban, which are pending in the database of the Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office (MCO).

1.2 The revoked Mineral Titles can be assessed under the following conditions:

a) Mineral titles revoked before the 2019 ban

- i. Mineral titles revoked for non-payment of Annual Service Fees (ASF) or other non-compliance issues before the ban shall remain revoked.
- ii. Such areas are available for fresh applications by interested applicants.

b) Mineral titles revoked during the ban for non-payment of annual service fees

In addition to fulfilling all requirements for the grant of Mineral Titles, applicants making new applications in Zamfara State must settle all outstanding financial obligations owed the MCO and submit a mandatory security clearance obtained from the Mines Marshal in the State.

1.3 Mineral Titles that expired during the ban shall not be eligible for regularization, as such licences have lost their validity.

1.4 Pending applications made before, during, and after lifting the ban

- i. New Mineral Title Applications in Zamfara State that are pending in the MCO database submitted:
 - During the ban stand refused as such applications were made when the ban was still in force.
 - After the lifting of the ban, shall be processed and granted or refused as the case may be, based on the merits of each application in line with the provisions of the Act and the Regulations.
- ii. The applicants who submitted their applications after the lifting of the ban or are submitting new applications in Zamfara State shall, in addition to fulfilling all other requirements for the grant of Mineral Titles, obtain from the Mines Marshal in the State a security clearance as part of the mandatory requirements for the grant of Mineral Titles in the State.

Conditions for Regularization of the Pending Applications

- i. Evidence of payment of outstanding ASF owed the MCO.
- ii. In addition to submitting an application via the eMC+, an applicant shall submit a security clearance obtained by the applicant from the Mines Marshal Unit in Zamfara State.
- iii. Evidence of community engagement and consent from the landowner(s)/ occupier(s).

1.5 Valid Mineral Titles

a) Validation and Compliance Check

- i. Holders of valid Mineral Titles must submit updated documentation within **1 month**, effective from the date of this notice.
- ii. The documents to be submitted shall include:
 - Evidence of commencement of Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA)
 - Payment of any outstanding fees.
 - Updated community development agreement.

b) Enforcement of Compliance

- i. Mineral Titles found to be non-compliant with regulatory requirements shall be flagged for further review.
- ii. Non-compliance may result in penalties, including suspension or revocation of the Mineral Title.

1.6 Special Conditions for Regularization

- i. All Mineral Title holders in Zamfara State must undergo a security screening process by the Mines Marshal Unit in the State before obtaining clearance from the Mines Inspectorate Department (MID), Ministry of Solid Minerals Development (MSMD), for the resumption of exploration and mining activities.
- ii. All holders of Mining Lease, Small-Scale Mining Lease, and Quarry Lease must comply with enhanced surveillance requirements, such as the installation of remote monitoring cameras at the mine sites.
- iii. Failure to meet the regularization deadlines will result in the revocation of the Mineral Title.

PART 2 REGULARIZATION OF MINING ACTIVITIES

2.1 Mandatory Installation of CCTV Cameras

- i. All holders of Mining Leases, Small-Scale Mining Leases, and Quarry Leases in Zamfara State must install remote surveillance cameras at their mining sites.
- ii. The cameras must be linked to a central monitoring room to be manned by the Mining Marshals and Mines Inspectorate officers in the State.
- iii. These cameras shall become the property of the Federal Government once installed.
- iv. The Mineral Title holder shall ensure that the cameras remain operational at all times.
- v. Any accidental damage must be repaired within 48 hours.
- vi. Failure to install surveillance cameras will incur a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Naira (₦500,000) and suspension of mining activities.

2.2 Physical Surveillance and Site Inspections

- i. The Mining Marshals, in conjunction with other security personnel, shall conduct 24-hour surveillance across all mining sites to ensure that mining activities are carried out only within the licensed area.
- ii. The Mines Marshals shall prevent unauthorized mining activities and ensure that only registered buyers and transporters handle minerals.

- iii. The Mines Environmental Compliance Department () shall oversee compliance with environmental standards.
- iv. The Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) will monitor financial transactions linked to mining companies to ensure that mining proceeds are not used to finance terrorism or money laundering.

2.3 Regular Inspection of Mine Sites

a) The Mines Inspectorate Department shall:

- i. Issue clearance to all licence holders who have obtained security clearance from the Mines Marshal Unit in Zamfara State before resuming exploration and mining activities in their licence areas.
- ii. In collaboration with the Mines Marshal Unit, conduct regular surveillance of mining areas in Zamfara State to identify and curb illegal mining activities using advanced surveillance tools such as drones and sensors.

b) The Mines Inspectorate and Mines Environmental Compliance Departments shall conduct inspections of licenced mining activities to verify and ensure compliance by the licence holders with safety Regulations, approved work plan, proper documentation of mineral extraction, sales, and payment of royalties due to the Government.

c) Non-compliance by a licence holder may result in fines, suspension, or revocation of the mineral title.

2.4 Tracking and Regulation of Mineral Movement

- i. Only agents licenced/registered by MID shall transport minerals from mining sites to buying centers.
- ii. Mining Marshals shall conduct road checkpoints to ensure proper documentation and prevent mineral smuggling.
- iii. Violators caught transporting minerals illegally will have their cargo confiscated and be prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of the Mining Act and relevant laws.
- iv. All exporters of minerals for commercial purposes must be licensed and registered by MID.
- v. MID shall use electronic tracking systems to monitor the transportation of mineral commodities.

2.5 Private Security Guards

Licence holders who engage private security guards in addition to armed personnel to protect and secure their workers, mining sites, and assets shall present such private guards to the Mines Marshal Unit for security profiling and documentation.

2.6. Community Policing

The Mines Inspectorate Department shall work in synergy with the Mines Marshal Unit and engage host-mining communities to form mining community groups to gather security intelligence and share with the Mines Marshal Unit to foster security in the mining communities.

2.7. Joint security operations

The Mines Marshal Unit shall collaborate with other security agencies (Military, Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of State Services (DSS) to implement joint patrols and ensure security of the mining areas in Zamfara state.

PART 3. PERIODIC REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE SOP

The SOP shall be reviewed and updated every six months to address emerging security and regulatory challenges.

PART 4. COMMENCEMENT OF SUBMISSIONS OF APPLICATIONS

The **provisions of the SOP** outlined in this notice provide guidelines for all Mineral Title holders and new applicants for the grant of Mineral Titles in Zamfara State, mining stakeholders, and the public. The MCO can be contacted for more details on the provisions of the SOP.

By this notice, the MCO wishes to inform the mining stakeholders and the public that the office has unblocked the Zamfara State area for the commencement of submission of new Applications for the grant of Mineral Titles in the State, effective from **18th December 2025**.

**Signed
Management**