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NOTIFICATION

No.J-30012/7/2025-C&I, the 29th July, 2025: In the interest of public services and as approved by the Council of Ministers conveyed vide. No.J.11011/2/2025-POL/i dt.29.07.2025 and in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (g) of sub-section (1A) of section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (Central Act No. 67 of 1957), the Governor of Mizoram is pleased to notify 'The Mizoram State Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2025' with immediate effect as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.-

- (1) These rules may be called The Mizoram State Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2025.
- (2) They shall extent to whole State of Mizoram and shall apply to all minor minerals as listed in the First Schedule of the Mizoram Minor Minerals (Concession & Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules, 2023.
- (3) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.-

- (1) In these rules, unless the context to otherwise requires
 - (a) "Act" means the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (Central Act No. 67 of 1957);
 - (b) "Chairperson, Governing Body" means the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Mizoram State Mineral Exploration Trust;
 - (c) "Chairperson, Executive Committee" means the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Mizoram State Mineral Exploration Trust;
 - (d) "Department" means Commerce & Industries Department, Government of Mizoram;
 - (e) "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the Trust;
 - (f) "fund" means the Mizoram State Mineral Exploration Trust Fund;
 - (g) "Government" means the Government of Mizoram;
 - (h) "Governing Body" means the Governing Body of the Trust;
 - (i) "Member, Governing Body" means the member of the Governing Body of the Trust;
 - (j) "Member, Executive Committee" means the member of the Executive Committee of the Trust;
 - (k) "obvious geological potential areas" means the minerals potential areas identified by the Geological Survey of India, from time to time; and
 - (l) "royalty" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it by rule 28 and rule 31 of the Mizoram Minor Minerals (Concession and Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules, 2023 for minor minerals;

- (m) “rules” means the Mizoram State Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2025;
- (n) “Trust” means the Mizoram State Mineral Exploration Trust referred in rule 3.
- (2) Words and expressions used but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, or Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016 or the Mizoram Minor Minerals (Concession and Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules, 2023, or the District Mineral Foundation Rules of Mizoram, 2023;
3. **Establishment of Trust.-** There shall be a Trust at the State level to be known as the Mizoram State Mineral Exploration Trust comprising of the Governing Body and the Executive Committee. The object of the Trust shall be the planned development of the mineral resources and their exploration in the State.

4. **Governing Body.-**

The Governing Body of the Trust shall consist of the following, namely:-

1.	Minister-in-charge of the Geology & Mining, Commerce & Industries Department	Chairperson
2.	Secretary, Finance Department	Member
3.	Representative of Regional Controller of Mines, Guwahati Region, Indian Bureau of Mines	Member
4.	Representative of Deputy Director General (Tripura - Mizoram State Unit), Geological Survey of India	Member
5.	Director, Geology & Mining	Member
6.	Principal Secretary/ Comr. & Secretary / Secretary of the Geology & Mining, Commerce & Industries Department	Member Secretary
7.	Special Invitee having experience in the relevant field to be invited by the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the State Mineral Exploration Trust. Such invitee shall have no voting right in the meeting but they shall be entitled to receive such sitting fee and other allowances as may be decided by the Government, from time to time.	

5. **Member of Executive Committee.-**

The Executive Committee of the Trust shall consist of the following, namely:-

1.	Principal Secretary/ Comr. & Secretary / Secretary of the Geology & Mining, Commerce & Industries Department	Chairperson
2.	Joint Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department	Member
3.	Joint Director (i/c MMI& Dev.), Geology & Mining	Member
4.	Under Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department	Member
5.	Officer-in-Charge (MMI&Dev.), Geology & Mining	Member
6.	Representative from Mizoram Quarry Association (MQA)	Member
7.	Director, Geology & Mining	Member Secretary
8.	Special Invitee having special knowledge in the field of mineral exploration and development to be invited by the Chairperson of the Executive of the State Mineral Exploration Trust. Such invitee shall have no voting right in the meeting but they shall be entitled to receive such sitting fee and other allowances as may be decided by the Government, from time to time.	

6. Functions of the Governing Body and Executive Committee.-

- (1) The Governing Body shall lay down the broad policy framework for the functioning of the Trust and review its working.
- (2) The Governing Body shall approve the annual plan and annual budget of the Trust on the recommendations of the Executive Committee and it shall meet at least once in a year.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall manage, administer and supervise the Trust, shall also monitor and review the expenditure of the Trust fund at regular intervals.
- (4) The Executive Committee shall, while discharging its functions, follow the policy framework and the directions of the Governing Body, from time to time.

7. Constitution of a fund under the Trust.-

- (1) The State Government shall, by order, setup a fund under the Trust to be called as the Mizoram State Mineral Exploration Trust Fund to be managed by the Executive Committee of the Trust.
- (2) The Trust Fund shall receive amount to be paid in accordance with the provisions of rule 8 and may also receive contribution and aids from sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee.
- (3) The Fund shall be utilized for the objectives and functions as specified in rule 10.

8. Contribution to Trust Fund.-

- (1) The Trust shall have power to open and operate Personal Deposit account and Bank accounts in its own name at any Scheduled Bank as specified in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Central Act No. 2 of 1934).
- (2) The Trust shall communicate the particulars of its Personal Deposit account and Bank account to the Director, Geology & Mining, Government of Mizoram for the purposes of receipts and payments.
- (3) The holder of Mining Lease / Mining Permit of minor minerals shall, while making payment of royalty to the State Government, pay the contribution to the Trust fund in respect of any mineral removed by him from and/or consumed within the area allotted/permitted to him, a sum equivalent to two percent of the royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule of the Mizoram Minor Mineral (Concession & Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules, 2023:
Provided that in the case of Illegal mining, transportation and storage of minor mineral(s) as the case may be; every illegal party shall, in addition to the fine imposed on them, shall pay to the Trust fund an amount at the rate of two percent of the fine paid in terms of the rate(s) fixed by the Competent Authority as defined in the Mizoram Minor Mineral (Concession & Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules, 2023 of State Government from time to time.
- (4) The payment towards trust fund under sub-rule (3) shall be collected along with royalty and fine under a separate sub-head through e-payment and cash and deposited in the account of trust and if any difference is accrued at the time of assessment of royalty and fine, the same shall be deposited in the account of trust immediately.
- (5) The trust fund shall be collected and recovered from the mining lessees, mining permit holders, operator or contractor along with the royalty and fine payment and shall be directly deposited in the account of trust fund.
- (6) The Director, Geology & Mining shall maintain an updated record of the amount transferred to the Personal Deposit account or Bank account of the Trust along with a database of royalty so collected and provide such information to the Trust on a quarterly basis.

9. Office and Bank Account.-

- (1) The office of the Trust shall be situated at Directorate of Geology & Mining, Lungmual Aizawl or at such other place as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

- (2) The Bank Account of Trust shall be opened and operated through the Director, Geology & Mining and Financial Advisor of the department or any other officer authorized by the Executive Committee.

10. Objectives and Functions of the Trust.-

The Trust shall perform the following objectives and functions, namely:-

- (1) to prepare vision and mission plans of short term, mid-term and long term for the planned development of minor mineral resources and their exploration in the State;
- (2) to prepare master plan of minor mineral exploration and to undertake regional and detailed exploration and assaying of resource;
- (3) to fund exploration in forest area after obtaining permission under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- (4) to facilitate geophysical, ground and aerial survey and geo chemical survey of the obvious geological potential areas;
- (5) to undertake study and advocacy of mineral development, sustainable mining, adoption of advanced scientific and technological practices;
- (6) to organize capacity building programs for raising technical capability of Department personnel engaged in the Trust;
- (7) to undertake research and development in the field of mineral analysis and testing of rocks and mineral samples submitted by the Department, public sector undertakings, private sector mineral industries, research institutions, laboratories etc. so as to assess quality of minerals by chemical, physical testing and instrumental analysis on no profit no loss basis;
- (8) to initiate action to strengthen and upgrade the Department Laboratory and provide impetus to research and development and to provide certificate on the basis of testing and analysis to exporters of mineral based products after obtaining accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories;
- (9) to appoint mining engineers, geologists, technical persons, financial consultants, management consultants and other employees as are necessary for carrying out the functions of the Trust on deputation/contractual basis;
- (10) to develop State Mineral Directory, State Mineral Atlas/Geo-Informatics Mineral Resource Information System for the State and putting up geological and other geo scientific data in digital formats for public domain and National Geoscience Data Repository Portal;
- (11) to facilitate the Government to introduce innovation and adoption of new technology and to provide technical and consultancy services;
- (12) to assess the needs, designing of courses for generating qualified persons and skill development, identification of institutions for skill development;
- (13) to provide logistic support for exploration projects through GPS, GNSS, vehicle tracking and such other related technologies;
- (14) Such other purposes that the Governing Body may decide, or authorize the Executive Committee for the development and exploitation of mineral resources in the State.
- (15) to monitor mining and related activities through modern technologies such as drone, survey and such other related modern technologies in the State.

11. Management of the Trust.-

- (1) The overall control, periodical reviews and policy direction of the Trust shall vest with the Governing Body.
- (2) The Executive Committee shall manage, administer and supervise the day today activities of the Trust.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall formulate and finalize the scheme for delegation of financial powers.

12. Sub-Committees.-

- (1) The Executive Committee may constitute sub-committee to fulfill the objectives of the Trust or such other tasks that may be assigned or delegated to it by the Executive Committee.
- (2) The sub-committee so constituted under sub-rule (1) shall discharge the duties and responsibilities under these rules and in exercise of such powers and functions as may be specified by the Executive Committee.

13. Implementation of identified projects by the Executive Committee.-

- (1) The Executive Committee shall implement the identified projects consistent with the objectives of the Trust as approved by the Governing Body.
- (2) In implementation of the projects referred to in sub-rule (1), the Executive Committee shall devise its own procedure consistent with the Act and rules made there under.

14. Monitoring of exploration projects.-

- (1) The Trust shall monitor the implementation of the projects either by itself or by engaging any entity.
- (2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1), the Trust may devise its own procedure consistent with the Act and rules made there under.

15. Meetings of the Governing Body.-

- (1) The Governing Body shall meet at least once a year.
- (2) The meetings of the Governing Body shall be presided by the Chairperson of the Governing Body.
- (3) All decisions or resolutions of the Governing Body shall be made or adopted by consensus.
- (4) In case of any disagreement or dissent, the opinion of the Chairperson, Governing Body shall be final.
- (5) The meetings of the Governing Body may be either physical or virtual or hybrid mode or by circulation or by combination of both: provided that circulation shall not apply for adoption of accounts of the Trust, for approval of annual plan and annual budget with vetting of annual report of the Trust.

16. Meetings of the Executive Committee.-

- (1) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once in every six months.
- (2) The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be presided by the Chairperson, Executive Committee and in absence of the Chairperson, Members of the Executive Committee may elect an officiating Chairperson, from among themselves.
- (3) The meetings of the Executive Committee may be either physical or virtual or hybrid mode or by circulation or by combination of both: Provided that the meeting by circulation shall not apply for adoption of accounts of the Trust, recommendation to Governing Body for approval of annual plan, annual budget and annual report of the Trust.

17. Notice and agenda for meeting of Governing Body and Executive Committee.-

- (1) The Chairperson or Member Secretary of the Governing Body with consent of the Chairperson, Governing Body shall convene meeting of the Governing Body by giving a minimum fifteen days' notice to all members:
provided that the Chairperson, Governing Body may authorize to convene a meeting with a shorter notice period.
- (2) The Chairperson or Member Secretary of the Executive Committee with consent of the Chairperson shall convene meeting of the Executive Committee by giving a minimum seven days' notice to all members:

provided that Chairperson of the Executive Committee may authorize to convene a meeting with a shorter notice period.

- (3) Notice for any meeting may include an agenda for the meeting, draft minutes of the earlier meeting and action taken report on the minutes of the earlier meeting.

18. Quorum for meeting.-

- (1) The quorum for any meeting of the Governing Body shall be four, excluding the special invitees.
- (2) The quorum for any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be five excluding the special invitees.

19. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of Member Secretary of Executive Committee.-

- (1) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall-
 - (a) administer and manage the Trust subject to the superintendence, control and direction of the Executive Committee; and
 - (b) exercise such administrative and financial powers as may be delegated by the Executive Committee or as may be assigned by the Chairperson, Executive Committee.
- (2) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities, without prejudice to the generality of sub-rule (1), namely: -
 - (a) to cause the preparation of the annual plan and related annual budget and submit them to the Executive Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Governing Body;
 - (b) to ensure due diligence has been exercised before considering proposals or projects to be undertaken by the Trust in accordance with the best practices, procedure, rules or directions of the Executive Committee;
 - (c) to ensure that the activities of the Trust are being conducted in accordance with the annual plan and related annual budget; and
 - (d) to submit to the Governing Body the annual approved plan and related annual budget for each financial year to the Government, by the end of January of previous financial year.

20. Annual Plan -

- (1) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, before the beginning of each financial year, initiate process of preparation of plans for short term and long-term projects proposed to be undertaken by the Trust in the ensuing financial year, to be referred as the annual plan, including details of activities to be undertaken or to be completed during such time and expected time for completion of the projects and cost for such projects.
- (2) The annual plan shall contain all projects, programs; activities proposed to be undertaken by the Trust for achieving its objectives and shall have clearly demarcated milestones.

- 21. Annual Budget.-** The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, before the beginning of each financial year, initiate process of preparation of an annual budget in advance containing the details of the proposed income and expenditure on activities covered in the annual plan for ensuing financial year, including the legal, administrative and other costs, and expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Trust together with details of the funding requirements in this regard, to be referred as the Annual Budget which shall be approved by the Executive Committee for onward approval of the Governing Body well in advance.

22. Approval of the Annual Plan and the Annual Budget.-

- (1) The annual plan and the annual budget shall be laid before the Governing Body for its approval thirty days before the commencement of each financial year.

- (2) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, on receipt of the copies of the duly approved annual plan and the related annual budget from the Member Secretary of the Governing Body, submit the same to the Government within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of approval of the Governing Body.
- (3) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-rule (2), the Trust may undertake expenditure for activities that are not approved in the annual plan subject to specific approval by the Chairperson, Governing Body, which shall be laid before the Governing Body in the next annual budget.
- (4) The annual plan and related annual budget may be amended at any time subject to the approval of the Chairperson, Governing Body, which shall be laid before the Governing Body in the next year plan or budget.

23. Annual Report. -

- (1) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, within ninety days of the end of each financial year, submit an annual report containing such information as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.
- (2) The annual report shall be approved by the Executive Committee and shall contain details of the activities completed by the Trust during the financial year and the expenditure incurred by the Trust during such financial year.
- (3) A copy of the annual report shall be sent to the Government within a period of thirty days from the date of its approval by the Executive Committee after duly vetted by the Governing Body.

24. Financial year.-

- (1) The accounting or financial year of the Trust shall be from the first of April to the thirty first of March.
- (2) The first year of operations of the Trust may be a partial year.

25. Maintenance and Audit of Accounts.-

- (1) The accounts of the Trust shall be maintained in the form, mode and manner as may be decided by the Executive Committee.
- (2) The accounts of the Trust Fund shall be audited in such manner as may be decided by the Executive Committee.
- (3) After the audit referred to in sub-rule (2), the Trust shall submit the annual report to the Governing Body.

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Commerce & Industries Department