



MINISTRY OF MINING, BLUE ECONOMY AND MARITIME AFFAIRS

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TALKING NOTES FOR THE CABINET SECRETARY, HON SALIM MVURYA, EGH DURING A FIELD TRIP TO EMBU TO COMMENCE THE NATIONWIDE GROUNDTRUTHING OF COLTAN AS A STRATEGIC MINERAL

24TH JANUARY 2024

MINING AS A GROWTH SECTOR

1. Having analyzed the Mining Sector over the last year, I am convinced that this is the **NEXT GROWTH FRONTIER**. The Availability of CRITICAL/ GREEN/ENERGY TRANSITION Minerals possesses and excellent opportunity for the Mining Sector to shore up its contribution to Growth and all the Aspirations espoused under

BETA – Lowering the cost of living, Creation of Jobs and Employment Opportunities, Expansion of the Tax Base, Enhancement of Forex Reserves and Enhanced rural economic Growth).

MINING SECTOR REFORMS

Since the Reconstitution of the State Department for Mining in 2022, it has spearheaded key reforms;

- i) Enhanced exploration for energy transition minerals as a way of complementing the recently concluded airborne geophysical survey project. This will further de-risk mining investments and hasten deposit discovery timelines
- ii) Commissioned the Gemstone Centre in Voi and leased out booths to traders for value addition and marketing. The Centre will serve over 10,000 gemstone miners in Taita, Kwale and other counties in gem cutting, polishing and faceting.

- iii) Developed the royalty sharing framework to facilitate the 20% share to the County Government through the National Treasury. This FY 2023/24 the National Treasury will distribute close to Kshs. 2.9 Billion to all counties with mining operations.
- iv) Developed the royalty sharing framework to facilitate the 10% share to the Local Community through the National Treasury.
- v) Refurbished and equipped the Mineral Testing and Analysis Laboratory at Madini House and initiated a government-to-government arrangement with the Government of Indonesia on capacity building
- vi) Initiated the revival of fluorspar mining in Elgeiyo Marakwet County (Kimwarer) and identified an investor to invest approximately Kshs. 4.8 billion.
- vii) Identified an investor to invest in Granite cutting and processing in Vihiga at a cost of over Kshs. 2.5 billion,
- viii) Initiated the procurement of an investor to invest in a gold refinery in Kenya.
- ix) Delineated artisanal mining zones, sensitization of artisanal miners and communities in ASM formalization interventions; Building capacity of artisanal miners to enhance sustainable mining operations and promote effective participation in the mineral value chain; Strengthening the

participation of women and youth through the entire artisanal value chain – including trading.

I. Launch of Ground Truthing Exercise

2. Having undertaken a nationwide Airborne Geophysical Survey project in the last couple of years, today we are here to launch and commence the process of undertaking detailed ground-truthing work.
3. This will complement the work of the Airborne team and assist in fastening the process of delineating mineral deposits of economic value.
4. Today, I am happy to announce that the Ministry has sent out teams to the following areas;
 - i. Dabel in Moyale – to explore for Gold**
 - ii. Marimanti in Tharaka Nithi to explore for Lithium and Iron Ore**
 - iii. Nadwat in Turkana to explore for Gold**
 - iv. Kiritiri in Embu to explore for Coltan Minerals**

5. These sites were selected following an intensive analysis of the outcomes of the airborne survey and taking into consideration the emerging trends in mineral global demand and intensity of mineral use.
6. We are therefore confident that following these exploration campaigns, our dedicated teams will collect sufficient geological data to warrant investments in mining in various areas. These efforts will be complemented by private-sector investments.
7. We therefore request that area residents and the County Governments accord our teams sufficient support to ensure that the exploration campaigns are successful. This will enable the Ministry plan for more areas and thus enhance our chances of realizing investments in the mining sector in the shortest time possible.

II. Declaration of Occurrences of Coltan and announcement of an enhanced exploration program to focus on Coltan

8. I am pleased to declare that we have discovered Coltan (Columbite and Tantalite) in Kenya. Since Coltan is a strategic mineral, the government will put

in place the necessary documentation on development and traceability of the mineral.

9. Coltan is among the minerals gazetted as Strategic Minerals

10. Coltan occurrences have been identified in the following Counties:

- a. Embu (Mbeere, Kiritiri),
- b. Tana River (Kora Wells),
- c. Kitui (Mwingi North,
- d. Samburu (Nachola),
- e. Turkana (Loima and Makutano) and
- f. West Pokot (Alale)

11. The Ministry will mobilize teams to conduct a detailed exploration of the mineral

III. Provide Guidance on Strategic Minerals

12. Following Cabinet Decision to declare several minerals as Strategic, the Ministry has developed guidelines to aid in dealing with such minerals. As you may recall, the Cabinet directed that these minerals will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
13. The guidelines therefore present a clear roadmap on how the Ministry will engage private sector players interested in exploring and dealing with minerals that were declared Strategic.

Artisanal Miners

14. Artisanal miners with stockpiles of strategic minerals may dispose of their mineral stockpiles through licensed mineral dealers.
15. Artisanal miners under registered cooperatives may continue with their operations through licensed cooperatives.

Mineral Dealings

16. The Cabinet Secretary shall continue to receive and process Mineral Dealers (Trading) and Mineral Dealers (Processing) Licence applications including for strategic minerals.
17. Holders of Calendar year 2023 Mineral Dealers (Trading) Licenses allowing them to deal in strategic minerals and who have applied for renewal may continue to trade and process strategic minerals awaiting processing of their licenses in accordance with Mining (Mineral Dealings Regulations), 2017.
18. All authorized Mineral Dealers who deal in strategic minerals will continue dealing in the said minerals as they await further directions from the Cabinet Secretary (the Cabinet Secretary shall formally communicate the National Mining Corporations preparedness to deal in strategic minerals)
19. Applications for Mineral Dealers (Trading) Licences will be evaluated on a case-to-case basis.
20. Applications for Mineral Dealers (Processing) License will be evaluated on a case-to-case basis.

Existing Mineral Rights

21. All existing mineral rights relating to strategic minerals and their current and subsequent renewals will be considered in accordance with the provisions of Regulations 4 (d) and (e) of the Mining (Strategic Minerals) Regulations, 2017.

New Applications for Mineral Rights

22. New applications for mineral rights relating to strategic minerals will be evaluated in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Mining (Strategic Minerals) Regulations, 2017 and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

IV. Provide an Update on Artisanal Mining

23. The Ministry has gazetted 20 County Artisanal Mining Committees for the following Counties – Kwale, Isiolo, Garissa, Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Makueni, Laikipia, Kajiado, Machakos, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Kericho, Kakamega, Marsabit, Taita Taveta, Narok, Migori, Kisii, Siaya and Turkana.

24. Further, in accordance with the Mining Act, 2016, the Ministry had gazetted 8 Community Development Agreement Committees in the following counties NAIROBI, NAKURU and TAITA TAVETA

25. The Ministry is intensifying efforts to have more AMCs and CDACs gazetted for the benefit of mining communities.

Thank you