

# Principles on Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

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## Background

Ghana is a mining country and Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) have been and will continue to be a vocation in the country. Artisanal mining (legal and illegal) is loosely defined as mining activity with a reasonably low level of capital investment and mechanization. Small-Scale mining is considered a legal activity where the mining activity covers no more than 25 acres.

In 1986, the government of Ghana revamped the large-scale mining sector through the Minerals and Mining law, PNDCL 218 of 1986 including legislation PNDCL 218, to promote small-scale gold mining. In addition, the government promulgated PNDCL 218 of 1986 to create the PMMC (Precious Minerals Marketing Corporation) to facilitate the marketing of precious minerals produced by the Small-Scale Miners.

Despite these regulations facilitating the legalization/formalization of Small-Scale mining, the application for licences has not been encouraging. This may be due in part to the fact that small scale miners are required to identify land with good prospects before applying for the mineral right.

Exploration is also a cost intensive and risky activity which is a deterrent to Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners with little capacity and resources. To that end, the government must conduct the exploration on the concession.

As the mineral right licensing authority, the government and particularly Minerals Commission, have a primary responsibility to promote ASM. Given the complexity of promoting ASM, the mining companies through the Chamber, intend to work jointly with government to develop a lasting and sustainable strategy.

The Ghana Chamber of Mines has therefore decided to fashion a policy to guide the formulation of a strategy to help promote ASM.



## Policy

1. The Chamber shall collaborate with government through the Ministry of Lands Forestry & Mines and the Minerals Commission, the mineral right licensing authority to develop strategies to enhance ASM in the country.
2. The Chamber shall assist the Ministry of Lands Forestry & Mines to develop a plan to effectively promote ASM.
3. The Chamber shall assist in capacity building for Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners in identified areas such as business development skills, application of cost effective technologies for extracting gold from the ores and environmental management and safety.
4. The Chamber shall recognize the achievements of notable ASM and encourage and allow membership in a distinct category.
5. The Chamber shall facilitate a study into ASM with the view to enhance the understanding of the needs of the sector to inform any strategy formulation.

