**ASGM Gold Trading**

**Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Gold Buying Stations:**
- Mint and Refinery Operations Department (MROD) in Quezon City
- BSP offices in the cities of Baguio, Naga, Davao and Zamboanga.

**Gold paid in Philippine pesos based on prevailing world market price**

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**Guidelines on BSP's Gold Buying Program**

1. **Physical Form**
   - Bar or disc (grains, powder, nuggets and flakes are not accepted)
   - Should not contain mercury or amalgam in any quantity
   - Should be free of slag and other foreign material
   - Should not bear any sign of metallic segregation or poured shortage

2. **Maximum Dimension**
   - Bar: 8 inches long, 4 inches wide, and 2 inches thick
   - Disc: 4 inches in diameter and 2 inches thick

3. **Weight**
   - Minimum weight of 300 grams per piece
   - Maximum of approximately 300 troy ounces or 9 1/2 kilograms per lot
   - Minimum weight of bullion shall be 64.30 troy ounces or 2 kilograms

4. **Minimum Assay**
   - 30% gold

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**ASGM Gold Trading**

- Due to the difficulty of small-scale gold miners to meet the standards set by the BSP, and their distance to the bank's buying stations, gold is sold to independent gold dealers and jewellers.
- About 40 percent of ASGM production is siphoned into the black market.
ASGM Legal and Policy Framework

Presidential Decree * Established small-scale mining as a new dimension in mineral development
Republic Act 7076 * People’s Small-Scale Mining Act
Republic Act 7942 * Philippine Mining Act of 1995
Executive Order No.* Promotion of small-scale mining as a formal sector of the minerals EO Industry
270 as amended by 270-A

ASGM Legal and Policy Framework

DENR Administrative Order 92-34 Rules and regulations governing areas declared as People’s Small-scale Mining Areas
DOH Circular 22-C Guidelines and measures for the safe usage of mercury by small-scale gold miners
DENR Administrative Order 97-30 Safety rules and regulations for small scale miners
DENR Memorandum Circular 2007-07 Clarificatory guidelines in the implementation of small scale mining laws
Related Laws and Policies

Republic Act 9147 * Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act
Republic Act 8371 * Indigenous People’s Rights Act
Republic Act 6969 * Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act
Republic Act 9003 * Ecological Solid Waste Management Act
Republic Act 9275 * Clean Water Act
Republic Act 8749 * Clean Air Act
PD 984 * Pollution Control Law

ASGM Issues and Concerns

a. Social and health problems

• Unregulated migration in mining areas especially in “gold rush areas”
• Land tenure and resource use conflicts
• Limited access to health and basic services
• Exposure of miners to occupational health and safety hazards
• Exploitation of workers especially minors
• Absence of social security benefits for miner-labourers
• Cases of mercury poisoning and high levels of mercury among miners and their families
• Proliferation of societal vices in mining areas
ASGM Issues and Concerns

b. Legal, enforcement and institutional problems

- Weak and non-operational mining regulatory boards
- Costly and difficult permitting and licensing process
- Ineffectual enforcement of small-scale mining and other related laws
- Small-scale mining companies undertaking large-scale operations
- Insignificant role of LGUs
- Uncontrolled ASGM activities in protected and watershed reservation areas

Key Issue: Understanding the Issue

- Developing a National Strategic Plan on ASGM (NSP)
- NSP provides framework
- Organize and rationalize
**ASGM National Strategic Plan Formulation Process**

- Baseline Data Gathering
- Consultation with Stakeholders and Preparation of Preliminary Draft
- Revision/fine-tuning of Draft Plan
- Submission of the Draft Plan to UNEP
- Plan Finalization and Endorsement
- Formalize Agreements for Plan Implementation
- Constitution of the ASGM Working Group and the National Steering Committee

**Key Issue 2: Bring Stakeholders**

a. Artisanal and small-scale gold miners
b. ASGM communities and adjacent villages
c. Government Agencies
   - DENR-Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB)
   - DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)
   - Local Government Units
   - Other government agencies
     - Department of Health
     - National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
     - Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)
     - Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
     - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
     - Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)