

The Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB) of Sri Lanka, established in 1993, operates under the Ministry of Environment. Its primary mandate is to promote the conservation and management of the country's mineral resources, ensuring that these resources are utilized efficiently, safely, and in an environmentally sustainable manner. The GSMB is responsible for systematic geological mapping and the assessment of Sri Lanka's mineral resources.

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### Key Functions of the GSMB:

1. **Geological Mapping and Mineral Exploration:** The bureau conducts detailed geological surveys to create comprehensive maps, aiding in the identification and evaluation of mineral deposits across the country.
2. **Mining Regulation and Licensing:** GSMB oversees the issuance of mining licenses, ensuring that mining activities comply with national regulations and standards. It also monitors mining operations to promote safe and environmentally responsible practices.
3. **Laboratory Services:** The bureau offers laboratory services, including analytical and petrological analyses, to support mineral exploration and research activities.
4. **Information Dissemination:** Through its Library and Information Centre, GSMB provides access to a wealth of geological and mineral-related information, supporting researchers, policymakers, and the general public.
5. **Public Engagement and Complaint Resolution:** The bureau maintains channels for public inquiries and addresses complaints related to illegal mining activities, demonstrating its commitment to community engagement and environmental stewardship.

### Recent Initiatives:

- **Graphite Mining:** In July 2024, the GSMB issued a mining license to Lankan Resource Mining Pvt. Ltd. for graphite extraction in the Kalutara District, highlighting the bureau's role in facilitating responsible mineral development.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** The bureau has been actively engaging with stakeholders, including landowners and government officials, to address challenges in granting mining permits and resolving related issues.

### Contact Information:

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The Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB) of Sri Lanka is responsible for regulating the exploration, mining, processing, transport, storage, trade, and export of minerals through a

structured licensing system. This system ensures that mineral resources are utilized responsibly and sustainably.

### **Types of Licenses Issued by GSMB:**

1. **Exploration License (EL):** Grants the holder the exclusive right to explore for specified minerals within a designated area.
2. **Mining Licenses:**
  - **Artisanal Mining License (AML):** Intended for small-scale mining operations, with specific sub-categories based on factors like depth and production volume.
  - **Industrial Mining License (IML):** Covers larger-scale mining activities, with categories A, B, C, and D, each defining the scale and scope of operations.
  - **Reserved Minerals License (RML):** Required for mining minerals designated as reserved, necessitating special approval from the Minister.
3. **Trading License (TDL):** Allows the holder to purchase, store, process, trade, and, with special authorization, export minerals.
4. **Transport License (TL):** Necessary for transporting mineral-bearing substances or minerals, specifying the quantity, period, and type of minerals.

### **General Eligibility Criteria:**

Applicants must meet specific criteria to be eligible for these licenses. For instance, individuals under 18 years of age, public officers, members of Parliament, and those declared insolvent are not eligible. Companies must be registered to do business in Sri Lanka and not be bankrupt or in liquidation. Additionally, applicants must possess the financial capacity and technical qualifications deemed necessary by the Bureau.

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### **Application Procedures:**

The application process varies depending on the type of license:

- **Exploration License (EL):** Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent, a map demarcating the intended exploration area, a project proposal, and relevant application forms. An application fee and communication fee are also required.  
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- **Mining Licenses:** Requirements include duly filled application forms, copies of deeds and survey plans of the site, lease agreements (if applicable), and proof of identity or business registration. For Industrial Mining Licenses, an Economic Viability Report is also necessary.  
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- **Trading and Transport Licenses:** Applicants need to provide completed application forms, relevant deeds or lease agreements for storage sites, consent letters from mining license holders, and details of vehicles for transport licenses.  
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**Royalty Payments:**

License holders are required to pay royalties based on a percentage of the sales or determined market value of the mined output. The specific rates are outlined in the Mines and Minerals Act and its amendments.

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**Regulatory Framework:**

The licensing process is governed by the Mines and Minerals Act, No. 33 of 1992, as amended by Act No. 66 of 2009. This legislation outlines the establishment of the GSMB, the types of licenses issued, eligibility criteria, and the rights and obligations of license holders.

[srilankalaw.lk](http://srilankalaw.lk)

For detailed information, including application forms and guidelines, applicants should refer to the GSMB's official website.