



**GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
MINES & MINERAL DEPARTMENT**

Dated Lahore, the 10th October, 2023

ORDER 07/2023

**SUBJECT: - DIRECTIONS TO BREAK REGIONAL MONOPOLIES AND ATTRACT NEW INVESTORS
IN MINING SECTOR.**

No. SOT(M&M)4-2/2023: Whereas, during some briefings taken from field officers of Directorate General Mines and Minerals Punjab, it has been observed with grave concern that no sincere or serious efforts are being made by the field officers to encourage entry of new investors in the mineral sector & break regional monopolies specific to their areas of jurisdiction, rather complete reliance is being made on old monopolist groups for submission of bids.

2. **And, Whereas,** a troubling trend has also been brought into the notice of the Competent Authority regarding mining leases of Ordinary Sand/Ghassar/Bhassar, where regional monopolist groups have been purchasing private lands in the minor minerals' blocks / zones, especially, the land giving access to the leased areas and main excavation points to discourage new entrants and avoid fair & healthy competition during auctions.

3. **And, Whereas,** this practice seriously disheartens new entrants from participating in the auctions and these monopolists tend to obtain mining leases by offering only marginal increases in bids over the reserve prices or giving no bids at all.

4. **And, Whereas,** in this regard, the Administrative Department issued an instruction order dated 03.03.2023 regarding the creation or revision of Ordinary Sand Zones. Regrettably, no proposals have been received by the Administrative Department since the issuance of this Order.

6. **Therefore,** all field officers (DDMM & ADMM) to make genuine efforts are directed to attract new investors in the mineral sector, for their areas of jurisdiction and also ensure breakage of regional monopolies. The field officers are further directed as under:

- i. Field officers must establish their local social media handles on Facebook, twitter etc. more active to showcase the investment potential specific to their areas of jurisdictions. In this regard, press briefings/ interviews and road shows be arranged at local level to

educate & give confidence to the new investor. The new entrants must be encouraged by informing that all legal support will be given to them by the department at all levels.

- ii. Explore new blocks/zones to reduce dependency on a single market, making the sector more resilient to economic fluctuations & regional monopolies.
- iii. Initiate factually viable and essentially required revisions in mining blocks /zones and get approved from competent authority.
- iv. All offices shall register "**Social Media Influencers**" in Schools/ Colleges / Universities and civil society to create more awareness w.r.t. investment opportunities in Mines and Minerals sector
- v. All field formations must conduct regular inspections of site areas under their jurisdiction. In case any violation of rule/law is detected, legal action may be initiated accordingly. Furthermore, if any violation is observed by a senior officer during any surprise visit, the concerned field officer will be held responsible and strict action will be taken as per law.

(BABAR AMAN BABAR) (PAS)
SECRETARY
MINES & MINERALS DEPARTMENT

No. & Date Even:

A copy is forwarded to:

- 1) Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Punjab
- 2) Additional Secretary (Staff) to Chief Secretary, Punjab
- 3) Director General, Mines & Minerals, Punjab, Lahore
- 4) PSO to Honorable Minister Mines and Minerals
- 5) PS to Secretary, Mines & Minerals Department
- 6) PA to Additional Secretary, Mines & Minerals Department


DEPUTY SECRETARY (TECHNICAL)