

**[ DENR MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 2007-06, June 19, 2007 ]**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MINERAL RESERVATIONS**

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, and Chapter III, Section 9 of Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 96-40, as amended, its Implementing Rules and Regulations, pertaining to the establishment of mineral reservations, the following guidelines are hereby promulgated for the guidance of all concerned:

**A. Basic Policy**

It is the policy of the State to promote the rational exploration, development, utilization and conservation of all mineral resources in the country in a manner that effectively safeguards the environment and protects the rights of affected communities. Toward this end and when the national interest so requires, mineral reservations may be established.

It is also recognized that the establishment of mineral reservations shall enhance land use for mining and make more lands available for mineral resources development, in line with the Government's program to revitalize the minerals industry. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the primary agency under the Department having direct charge in the administration and disposition of mineral lands, shall endeavor to identify and recommend areas appropriate to be declared as mineral reservations.

**B. Scope**

This Memorandum Order shall cover all areas targeted for the establishment of mineral reservations, especially the highly prospective areas, pursuant to the approved Work and Financial Plan of the Department.

**C. Geological Assessment**

1. The MGB shall conduct regional mapping and reconnaissance surveys to identify and assess the mineral potential of possible mineral reservation areas.
2. Semi-detailed surveys shall be conducted by the MGB as follow-up activities in areas identified and assessed as possible mineral reservations areas.

**D. Environmental Resource Mapping**

The MGB shall conduct an environmental resource mapping in areas identified as possible mineral reservations to arrive at a holistic assessment of land capability,