

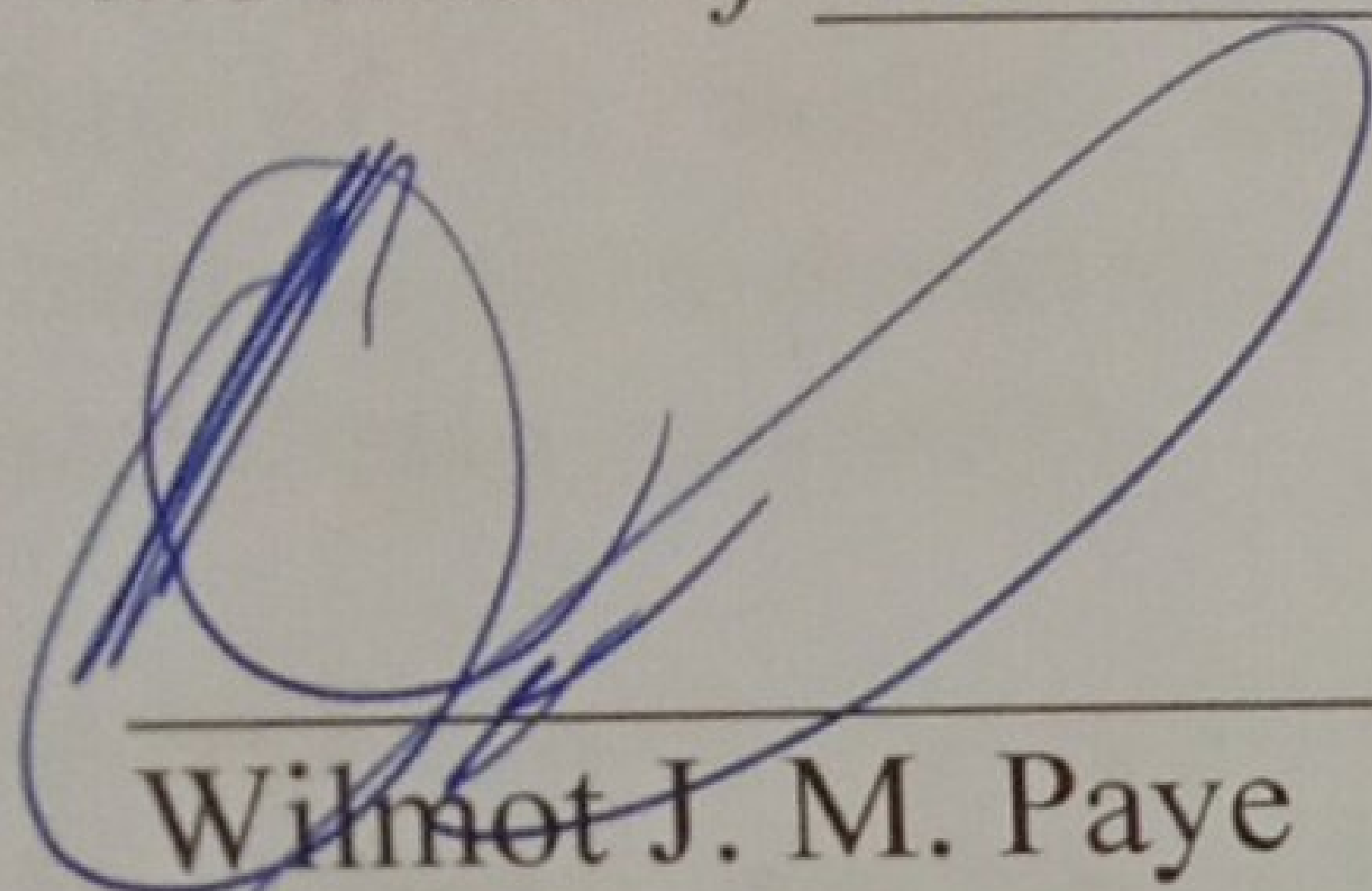
LIBERIA RIVER SAND MINING REGULATIONS



The regulations governing the extraction, stockpiling, transportation, and marketing of Silica sand resource in Liberia.

2025

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred on the Minister by sections 21.1, 21.2, and 21.3 of the Minerals and Mining Law of Liberia 2000, (PART 1, TITLE 23, LIBERIAN CODE OF LAWS REVISED), These Regulations become effective on this 9TH Day of OCTOBER A.D. 2025, at the hour of 12:00 NOON



Wilmet J. M. Paye

Minister, Ministry of Mines and Energy



FOREWORD

River sand is an essential, often overlooked, natural resource that serves as the bedrock of our nation's infrastructure and economic growth. It is the critical input for housing, roads, bridges, and other vital development projects across Liberia.

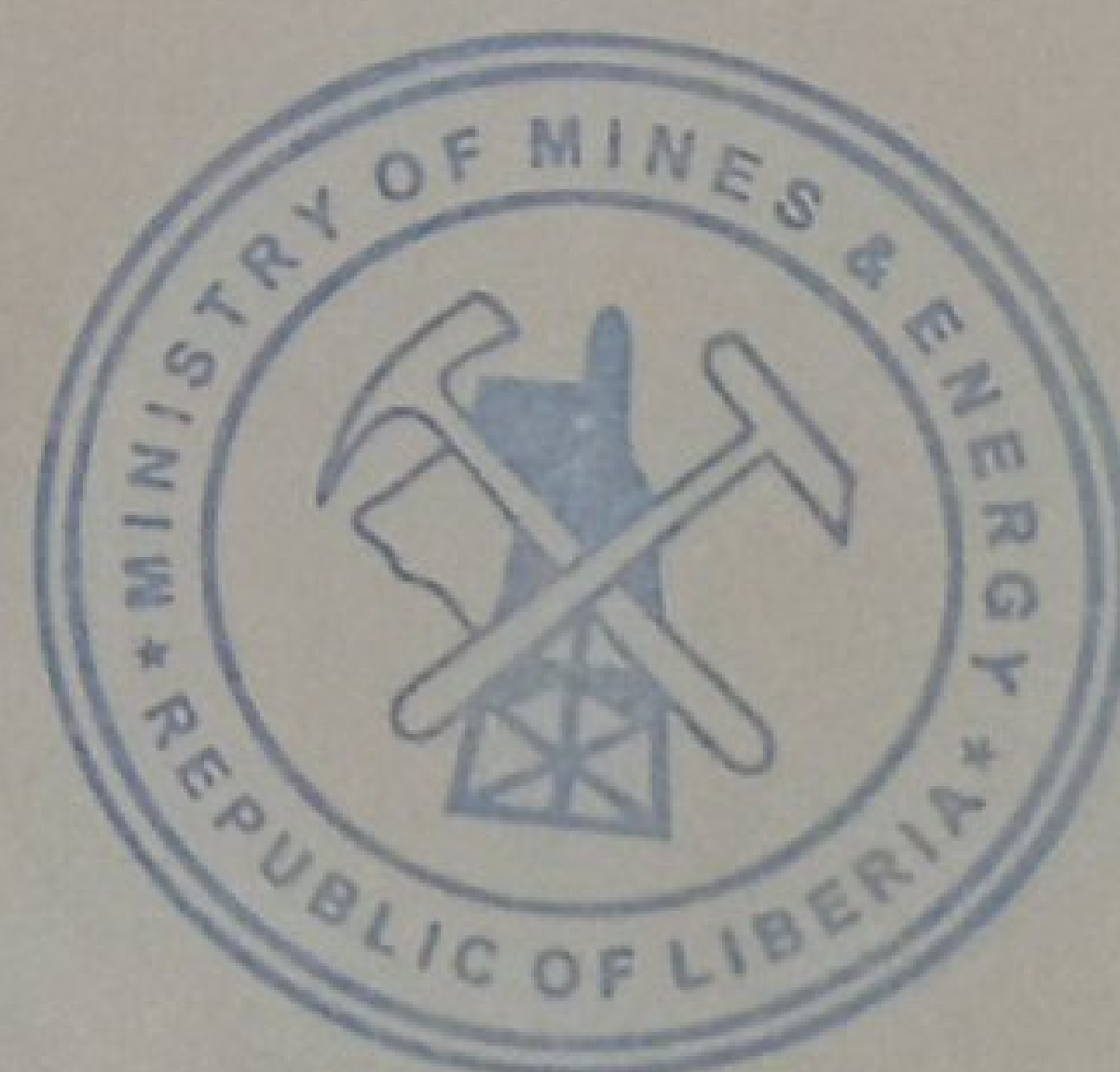
However, the rapid growth of construction and the corresponding demand for sand have led to a rise in unregulated mining practices. We cannot, as a nation, stand idly by while essential development is achieved at the expense of our environment, the safety of our workers, and the well-being of our communities. Unregulated extraction risks devastating our river ecosystems, degrading water quality, and destabilizing riverbanks.

It is with this firm recognition that the Ministry of Mines and Energy presents these Liberia River Sand Mining Regulations: A Framework for Responsible River Sand Extraction and Best Practices. Guided by the principles of sustainable development and the Minerals and Mining Law 2000, this document provides a comprehensive and unambiguous regulatory framework.

These Regulations are a commitment to fostering an industry that is both productive and responsible. They mandate practices that prioritize environmental protection, worker health and safety, and community participation and benefit-sharing. Compliance is not merely a legal requirement; it is a shared duty to protect Liberia's natural heritage for future generations.

I call upon all stakeholders, license holders, workers, local communities, and government institutions to embrace these standards and work collaboratively to ensure the sustainable and responsible management of our river sand resources.

Wilmot J.M. Paye
Minister



PREAMBLE

Recognizing the importance of river sand as a vital resource for infrastructure development and other sectors in Liberia; acknowledging the potential negative environmental, social, and health impacts associated with unregulated river sand mining activities; guided by the principles of sustainable development, the provisions of the Minerals and Mining Law 2000, and the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment and living conditions; and committed to promoting responsible and environmentally sound river sand mining practices that prioritize the health and safety of workers and surrounding communities; and seeking to ensure community participation and benefit-sharing in river sand mining operations, while safeguarding their health and well-being, the following regulations are hereby established for the extraction of river sand in Liberia.

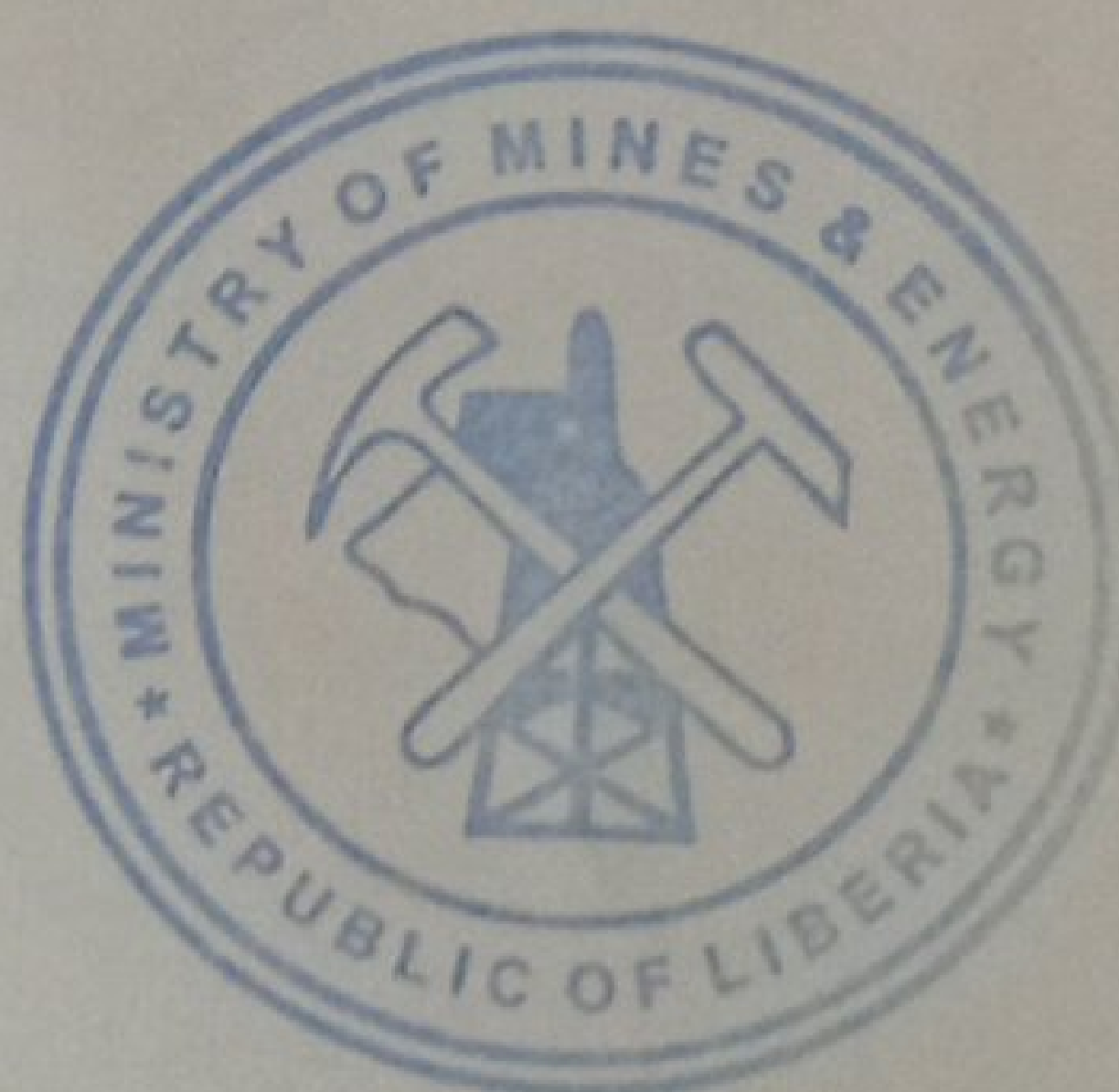
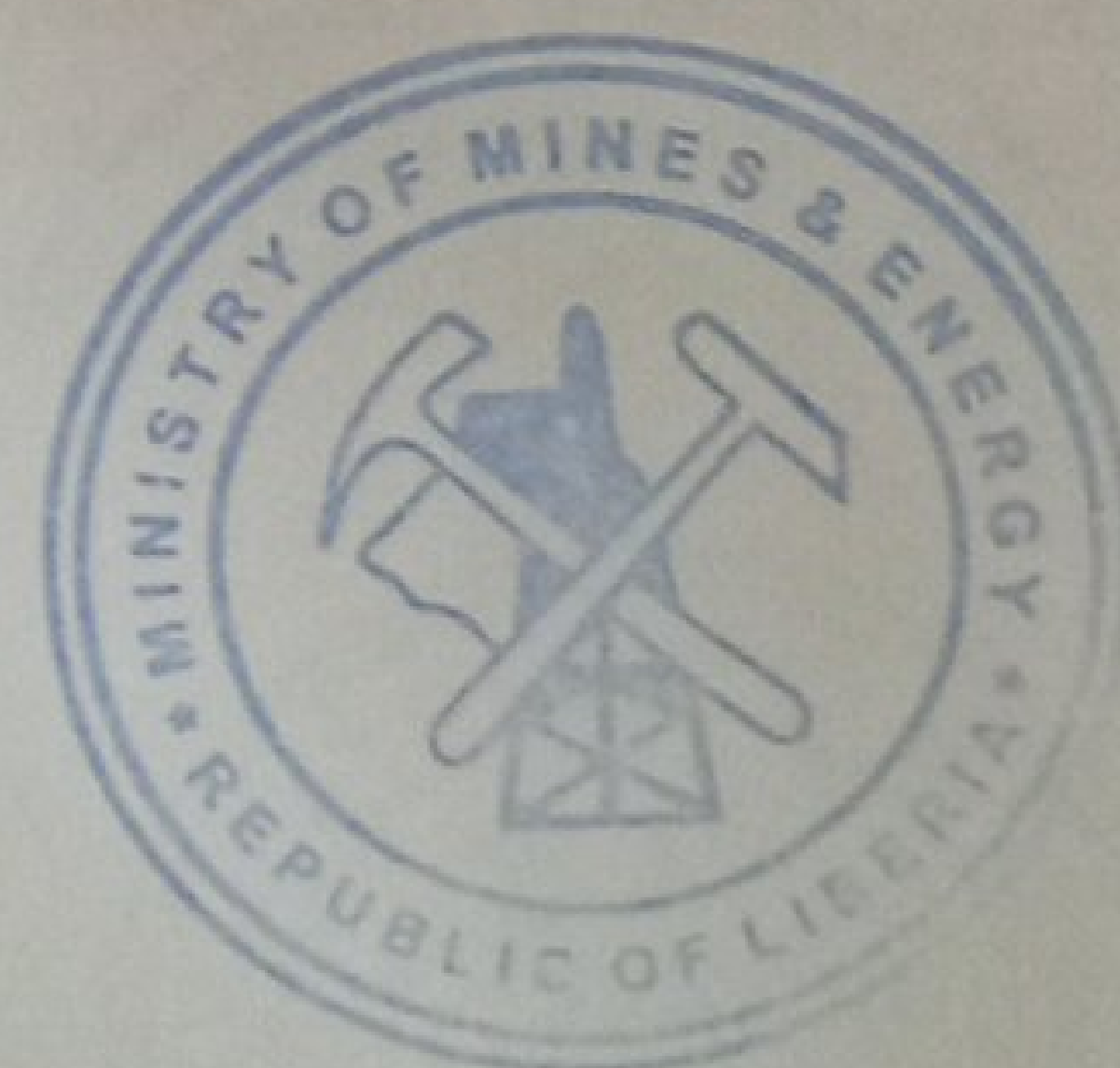


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EXHIBITS:

EXHIBIT -1 River Sand Mining License Holders Work Plan Template

EXHIBIT -2 RIVER SAND MINING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORTING TEMPLATE

EXHIBIT -3 ANNUAL PRODUCTION PLAN

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Section 1.0: Title

These regulations shall be known as the "Liberia River Sand Mining Regulations 2025."

Section 1.2: Objectives

The objectives of these regulations are to:

- Provide a clear and consistent framework for the extraction, stockpiling, transportation, and marketing of sand resources in Liberia.
- Minimize and mitigate the potential negative environmental impacts of river sand mining.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of workers involved in river sand mining operations.
- Promote community participation in decision-making processes related to river sand mining.
- Establish technical standards for river sand extraction to ensure efficiency.
- Prevent illegal and unauthorized river sand mining activities.
- Ensure fair and equitable distribution of benefits derived from sand mining.
- Ensure compliance with record-keeping requirements of the mineral and mining law and other applicable laws and regulations of Liberia.

Section 1.3: Definitions

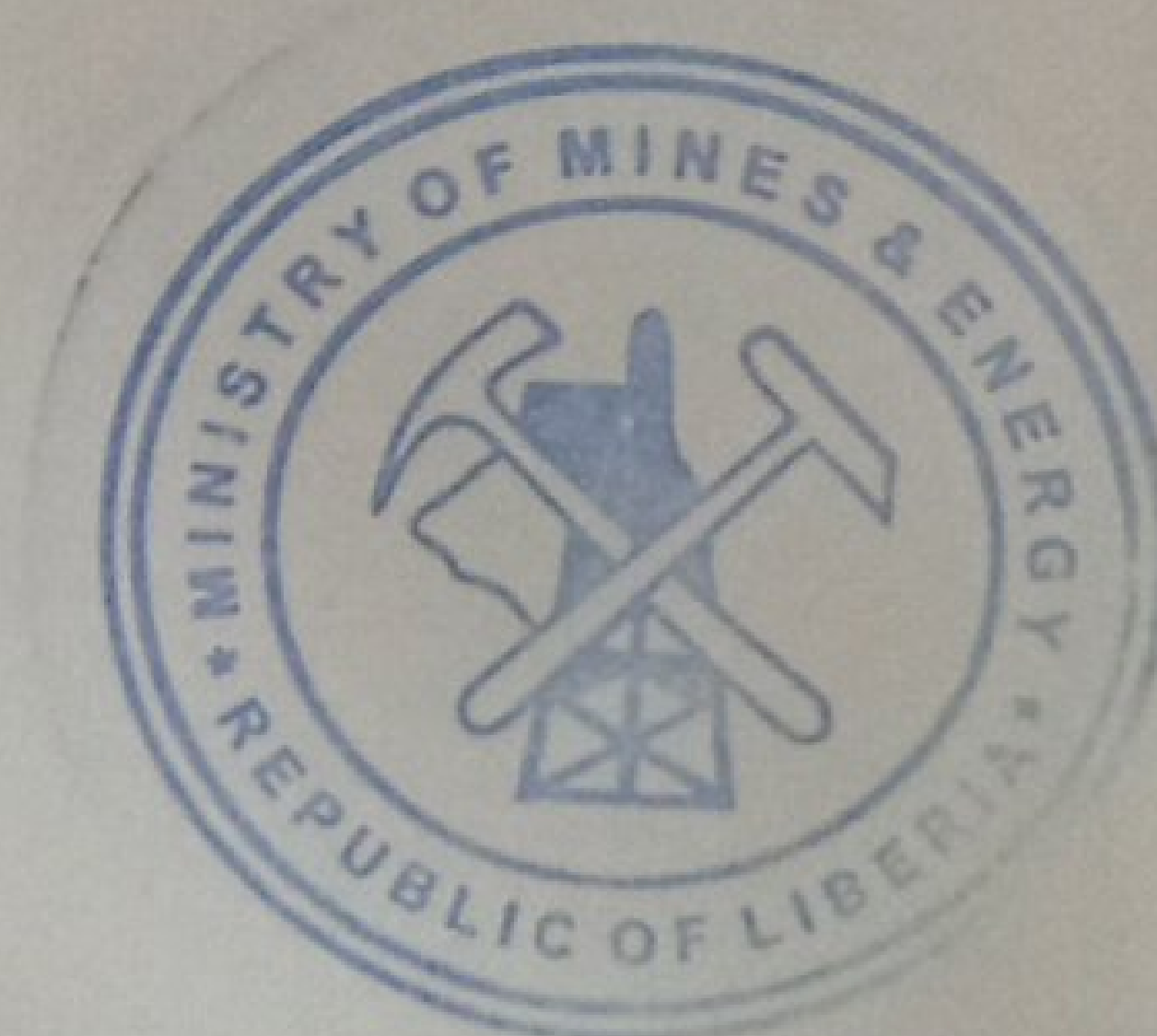
To these regulations, unless the context otherwise clearly requires, the terms listed below have the meanings set forth below:

- "Affected community" refers to a population living in areas heavily impacted by sand mining activities, affecting the economy, society, culture, and environment. These effects extend beyond those directly employed by the mine. Such communities might be occupational, residential, or indigenous, and the impacts can be both positive (like



job creation, economic growth) and negative (such as environmental damage, health problems, and social disruption).

- **"Affiliate"** shall mean a Person that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another person. "Control" shall mean the possession by one person of the power to direct or administer the affairs of another Person by virtue of the ownership of more than fifty percent (50%) of the share capital or other equity in such person or by virtue of any other right or power to direct and administer the affairs of such Person in accordance of section 1.3 of the Minerals and Mining Law 2000.
- **"Annual Fees"** means the annual license fee payable by the license holder.
- **"Applicant"** means a person who submits the prescribed information under this regulation to obtain, renew, or otherwise modify license rights authorized under this regulation.
- **"Buffer Zone"** is a restricted area where dredging is not permitted, which shall be determined by a technical assessment conducted by the Ministry.
- **"Environment"** means the physical, biological and socio-economic surroundings.
- **"Environmental Social Impact Assessment"** (ESIA) as defined in the Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia
- **"License Area"** is an area or specific location granted by the Minister to an eligible applicant to conduct sand mining operations.
- **"Holder"** shall mean the holder of a Mineral Right under the Minerals and Mining Law 2000.
- **"License"** A written authorization granted by the Minister, in consonance with the Minerals and Mining Law 2000, to undertake river sand mining activities.
- **"Mine"** as defined in the mineral and mining law of Liberia (2000).
- **"Mineral Right"** means a River Sand Prospecting License and/or River Sand Dredging License in this regulation.
- **"Mining License"** shall have the meaning provided in the Minerals and Mining Law 2000.
- **"Minister"** means the Minister of Mines and Energy of the Republic of Liberia.
- **"Ministry"** means the Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Republic of Liberia.
- **"Technical Parameters"** means specifications and standards related to the methods, equipment, and processes used in sand mining.



Chapter 2: License:

Section 2.0 River Sand Prospecting License

All applicants for a river sand prospecting license must meet the requirements of a prospecting license in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Minerals and Mining Law (2000).

Section 2.1 River Sand Mining License

A River Sand Mining License is required before the mining of river sand in accordance with Section 6.4 and Section 7.3 (a and b) of the Minerals and Mining Law (2000).

Section 2.2 Requirement for River Sand Mining License

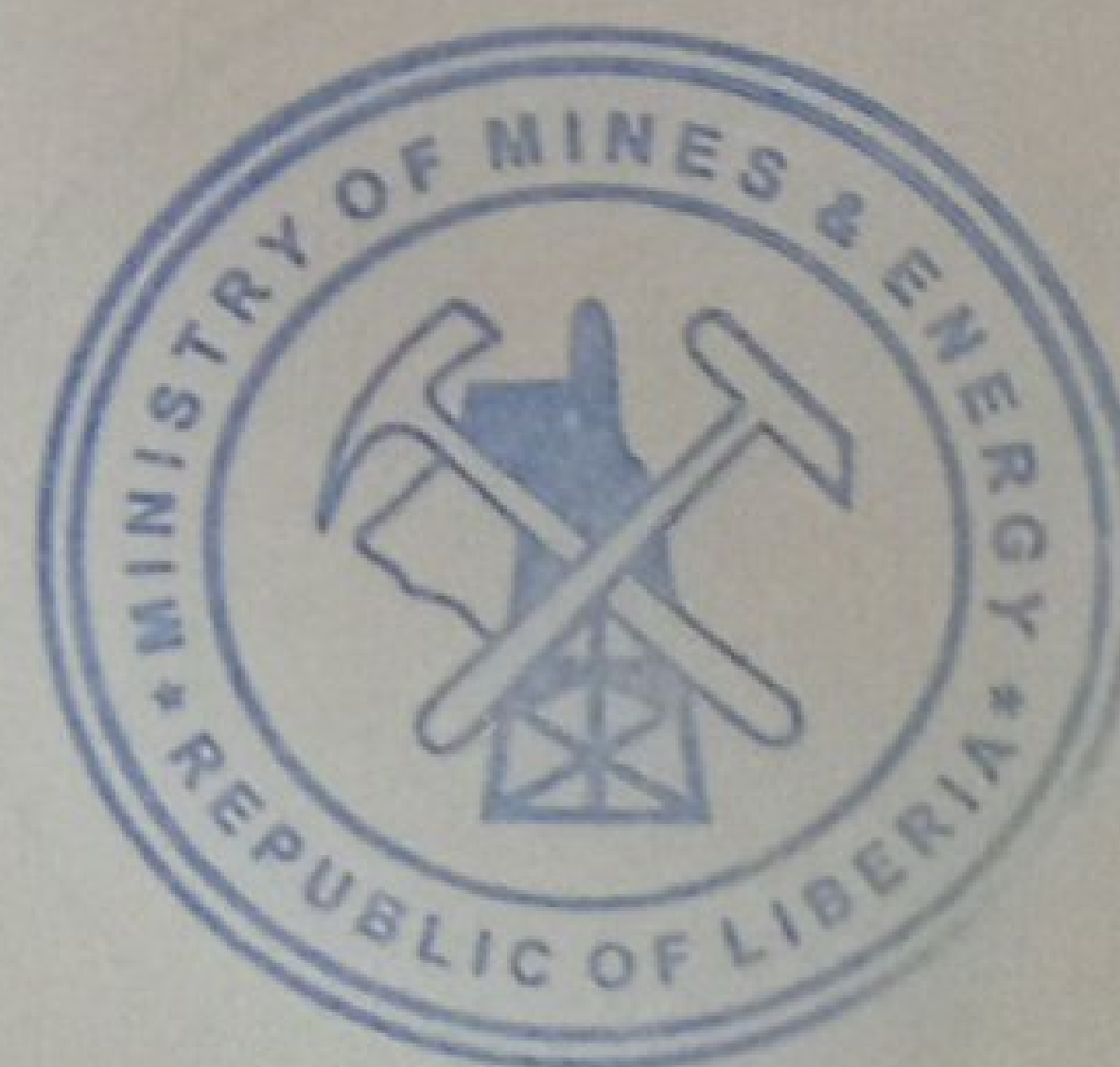
An application for a river sand mining license shall be submitted to the Ministry in the prescribed forms and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Obtain a copy of the prospecting clearance issued by the Assistant Minister for Mineral Exploration and Environmental Research (A'MEER)
- Company's details (articles of incorporation, business registration certificate)
- Resident and/or Work Permits for foreign owners.
- Office Address/office space with UTM coordinates.
- Identification of the applicant (citizenship details).
- Proposed Survey Maps with UTM Coordinates.
- Technical Work Plan describing methods of extractions.
- Submit a copy of the EPA Permit and/or Project Brief of the EIA report before commencing mining.
- Any other information as may be required by the Ministry.
- Submit a bathymetric survey.

Only applicants who meet the requirements as indicated in Section 2.2 shall be granted a river sand mining license.

Section 2.3 License Fees and Royalties

Holders of river sand prospecting and river sand mining licenses shall pay the required license fees and royalties published in regulations by the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.



Section 2.4 Terms and Conditions for River Sand Mining License

A river sand mining license shall be granted on the same basis as a Class B Mining License and subject to the same terms and conditions as stipulated in Sections 4.2, 6.4, 6.7, and 7.3 of the Minerals and Mining Law (2000).

Section 2.5 River Sand Gratis License

A river sand gratis license may be issued to applicants who are involved with government infrastructural projects and other projects of national development in accordance with the terms of contracts.

Section 2.6: Requirements for River Sand Gratis License

- Project Details
- Contracts with the Government of Liberia with a Clause about the granting of the river sand gratis license
- Office Address with UTM coordinates,
- Spatial Location of proposed river sand site.
- Technical Work Plan describing methods of extractions.
- Submit a copy of the EPA gratis license and/or the Project Brief of the ESIA report

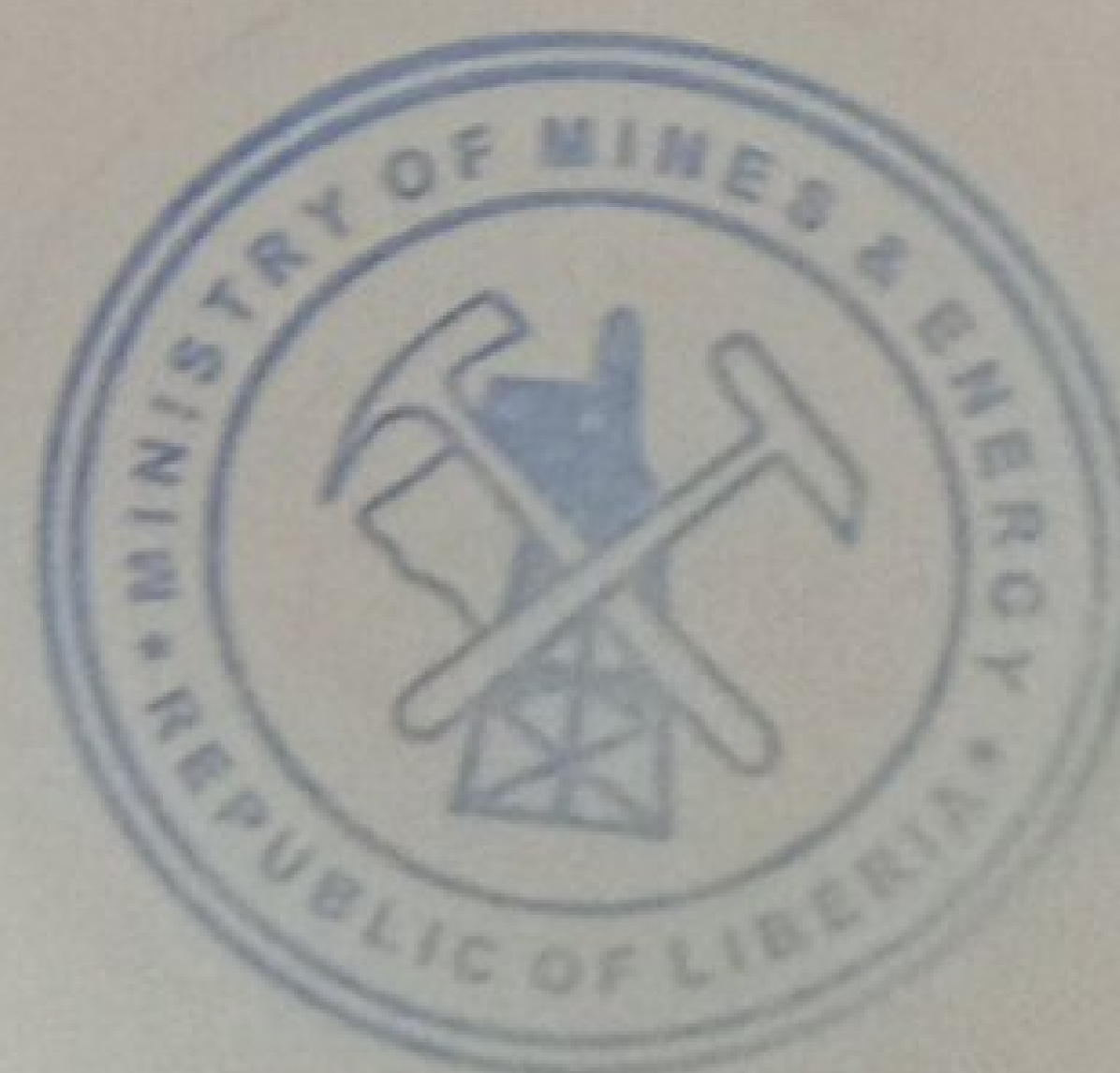
Section 2.7 Terms and Conditions for River Sand Gratis License

- A gratis license shall not be used for a commercial purpose
- River Sand Gratis License may be extended annually.
- The gratis license holder must submit an annual report of the project before said license is extended or renewed.
- Gratis license holder must have a MOU with the community.
- The term of the river sand gratis license comes to an end when the project for which it was issued is /has been completed.

Section 2.8 Conditions for Renewal, Suspension, and Revocation of River Sand Mining License

A river sand mining license may be renewed upon application, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions of the license and these regulations.

The Ministry may suspend or revoke a river sand mining license for reasons including, but not limited to:



- a. Violation of the terms and conditions of the provisions of these regulations, the Minerals and Mining Law (2000) and all applicable laws and regulations of the Republic of Liberia.
- b. Failure to fully implement the provisions of the MOU with the affected communities
- c. Conducting unauthorized mining activities outside of the license area.

Chapter 3: Technical Parameters for River Sand Mining License

All Holders of river sand mining license must adhere to the following technical specifications and standards as provided for in this chapter.

Section 3.1 Extraction Methods

River Sand Mining license holder shall employ appropriate techniques for extraction (i.e. dredging) that will control erosion and sedimentation during and after extraction activities, thereby minimizing the turbidity of the river, oil spillage and other pollutants that could impact river quality.

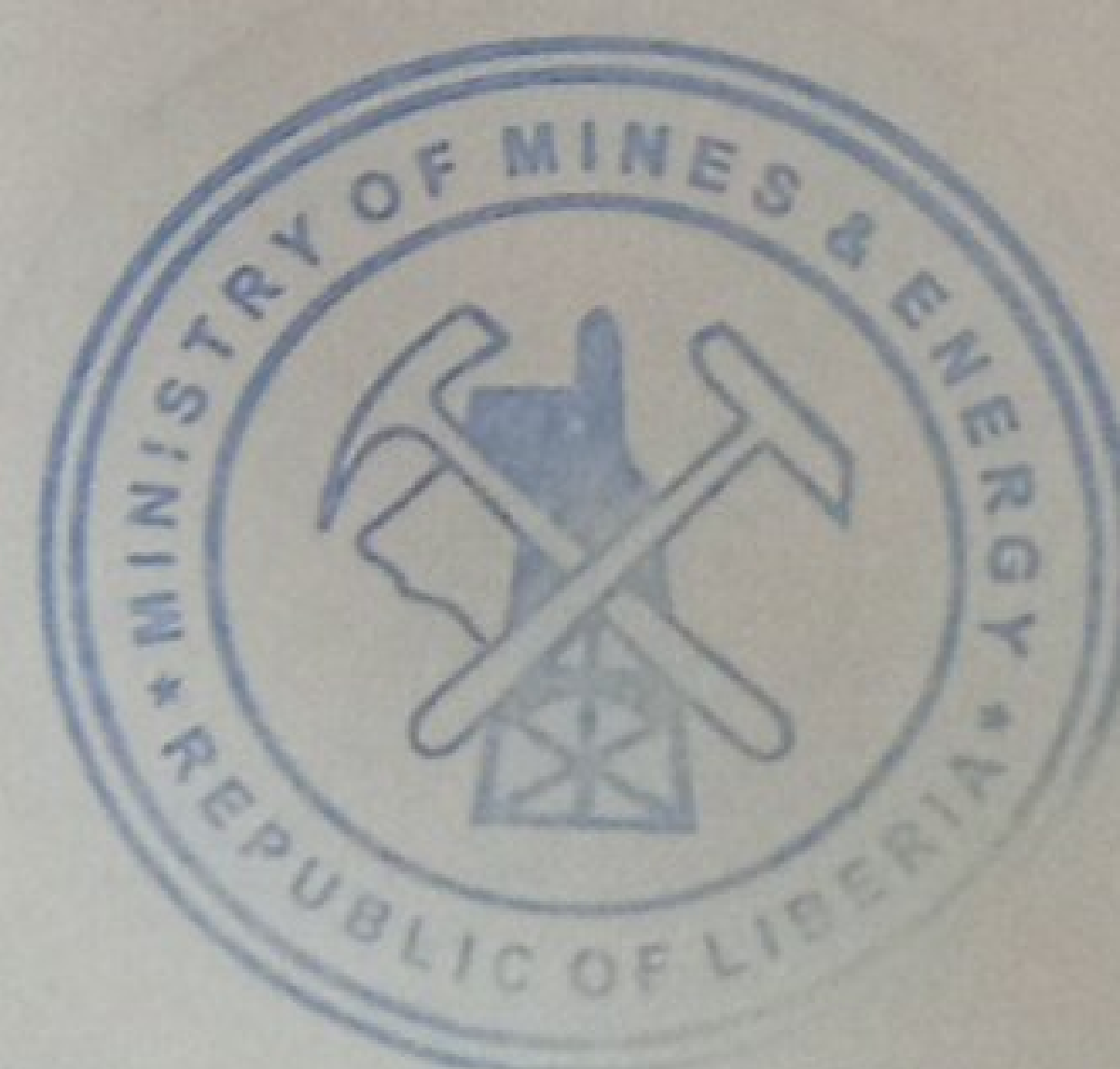
Extraction activities shall be planned and executed as contained in the license holder's technical work plan.

See the template for technical work plan in the attached Exhibit 1.

Section 3.2 Transportation

Transportation of river sand must be carried out:

- a. Using haulage trucks approved by the relevant government agency (ies) or Ministry (ies).
- b. At speed limits in keeping with the vehicle and traffic laws of Liberia
- c. With appropriate covers to minimize dust emission during movement
- d. By a licensed driver in keeping with the vehicles and traffic laws of Liberia
- e. Between 7:00 am to 7:00 pm daily except Sundays and national holidays.
- f. Loading must not exceed the capacity of the haulage truck.



Section 3.3 Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

The requirements for Environmental Social Impact Assessment study and Environmental Management Plan of applicants for a river sand mining license shall be in keeping with the Environmental Protection and Management Laws of Liberia and other applicable laws and regulations.

Section 3.4: Best Practices in River Sand Mining

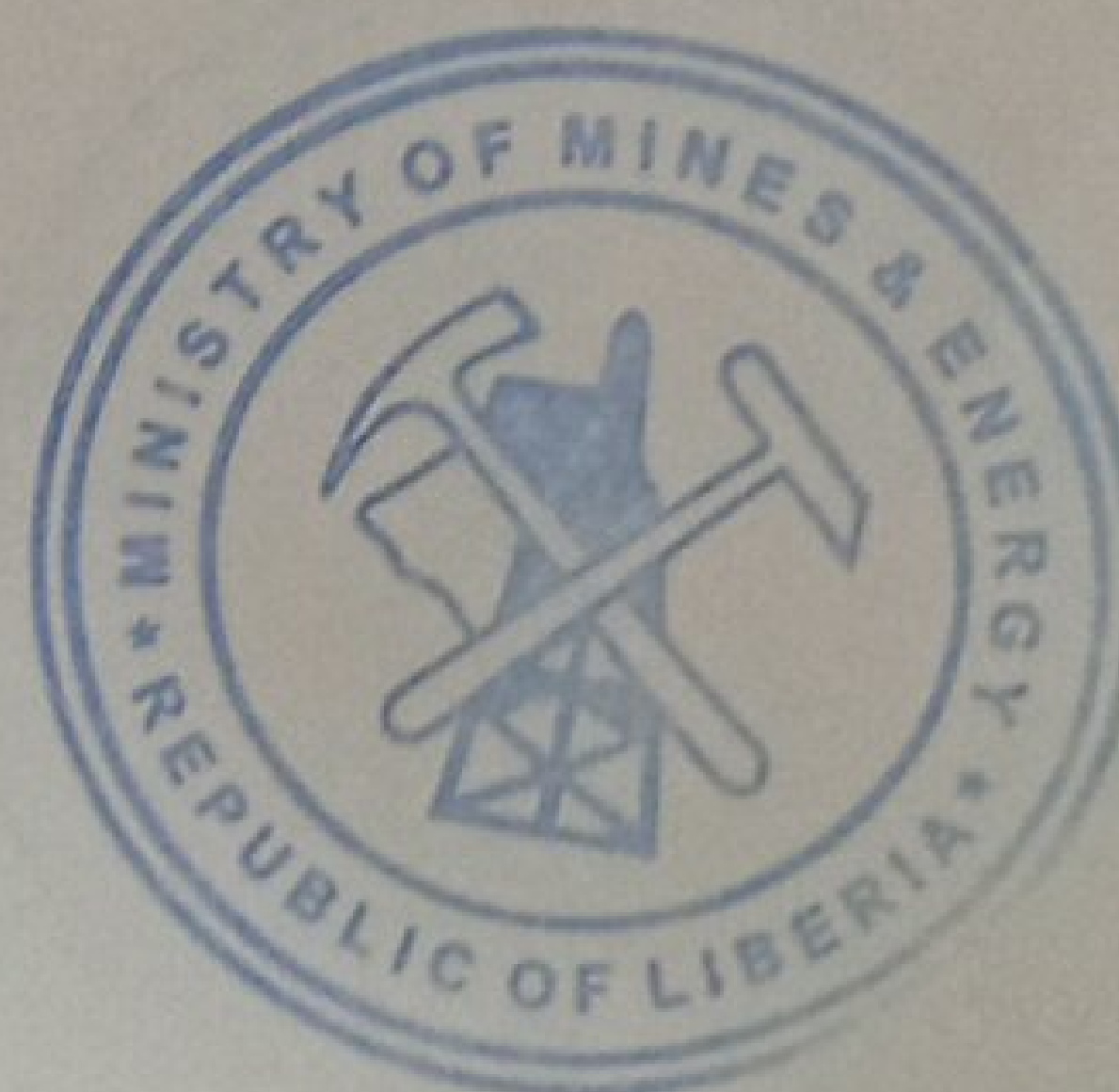
River Sand mining license holders shall adopt responsible practices that minimize environmental degradation and risks posed to human health and safety.

These shall include:

- a) Avoiding extraction in sensitive ecological areas and areas prone to natural hazards that could be exacerbated by mining.
- b) Implementing measures to reduce waste and minimize the potential for environmental degradation to the river ecosystem.
- c) Regular monitoring of extraction activities and their environmental, health, and safety impacts.
- d) Implementing best practices in occupational health and safety for all workers involved.

Section 3.5 Buffer Zones

- a. All river sand mining activities must be conducted at least one kilometer away from bridges.
- b. All river sand mining licenses must be separated by buffer zones of not less than ten (10) meters.
- c. All river sand mining license must be at least ten (10) meters away from the banks of a river.
- d. All river sand mining license holders must establish stockpiles in designated areas not less than twenty (20) meters from the bank inland in a manner that minimizes erosion, visual impact, collapse of the river banks, and potential workers and the community.



Chapter 4: Community Participation, Benefit Sharing, and Dispute Resolution

Section 4.1: Memorandum of Understanding

After the issuance of any river sand mining license, the licensee shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the affected communities approved by the offices of Township Commissioners, or City Mayors, and attested by the County Superintendent.

Section 4.2 Terms and Conditions of the MOU

- a. Employment opportunities for residents, with provision for safe working conditions and health insurance.
- b. Contribution to local development projects (e.g., schools, healthcare facilities, infrastructure, and sanitation).
- c. Procurement of local goods and services,
- d. Ensuring fair labor practices in keeping with the Labor Law of Liberia.
- e. Programs to address potential hazards associated with river sand mining operations (e.g. Dust suppression and control measures in communities, speed limits of haulage trucks and etc.).
- f. Deploy spotters to critical areas to regulate the movement of vehicles and equipment within the production area.
- g. Settlement of disputes;
- h. The duration of the Memorandum of Understanding shall be in line with the license tenure, wherein the license is renewed, the MOU shall be subject to a review

Section 4.3 Community Development Fund Committee (CDFC)

There shall be the establishment of the Community Development Funds Committee (CDFC), which shall be responsible for executing projects utilizing funds generated through the MOU. The said committee shall be supervised by the Township Commissioner or City Mayor, with oversight by the office of the Superintendent. The committee shall be composed of a representative of the licensee and elected community leaders.



Section 4.4 Disputes Reporting Procedures

The aggrieved Party shall submit a written complaint to the County Mine Office, which shall conduct a preliminary investigation. If the matter cannot be resolved by the County Mine Office, then it shall be transferred to the Central Office of the Ministry.

Section 4.5 Dispute Resolution

A dispute resolution shall be handled in the form and manner as stated in Sections 4.5 (a and b) respectively.

Section 4.5 (a) Dispute Resolutions between License Holders and Affected Community.

The License Holders and the Community shall establish transparent and culturally appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms to properly and promptly address concerns and complaints raised by either party based on the MOU. Said dispute resolution shall include the Mining Agent and the assigned Mineral Inspector.

Where the Mining Agent and the assigned Mineral Inspector cannot resolve said dispute within twenty four (24) hours' time, it must be immediately forwarded to the County Mine Office of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The County Office of the Ministry of Mines and Energy shall review and make a determination of the preliminary findings within seventy two (72) hours after the receipt of said complaint. In the case where there is no resolution to said dispute, the County Office shall immediately forward the disputes to the Central Office of the Ministry.

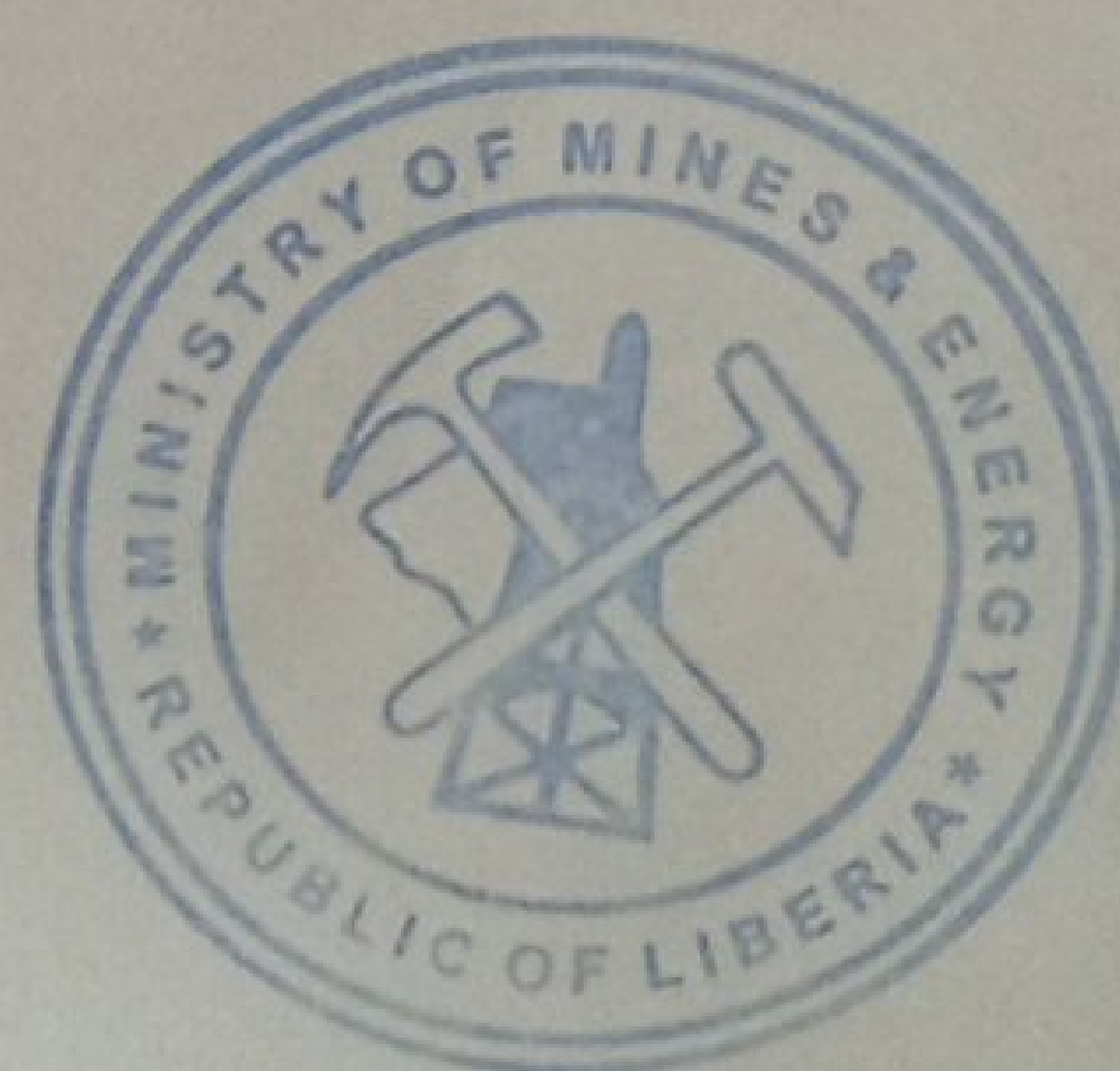
Section 4.5 (b) Disputes Resolutions between License Holders

Where there is a dispute between sand mining license holders, said dispute shall be resolved based on the terms and conditions of the river sand mining license and all applicable laws and regulations of the Republic of Liberia.

Chapter 5: Monitoring, Enforcement, and Penalties

Section 5.1 Monitoring

The Ministry shall be responsible for monitoring river sand mining activities to ensure compliance with these regulations and the terms and conditions of licenses. Monitoring may include site inspections, review of reports (including Occupational Health and Safety records), and other matters as appertaining to this regulation.



Section 5.2 Inspection

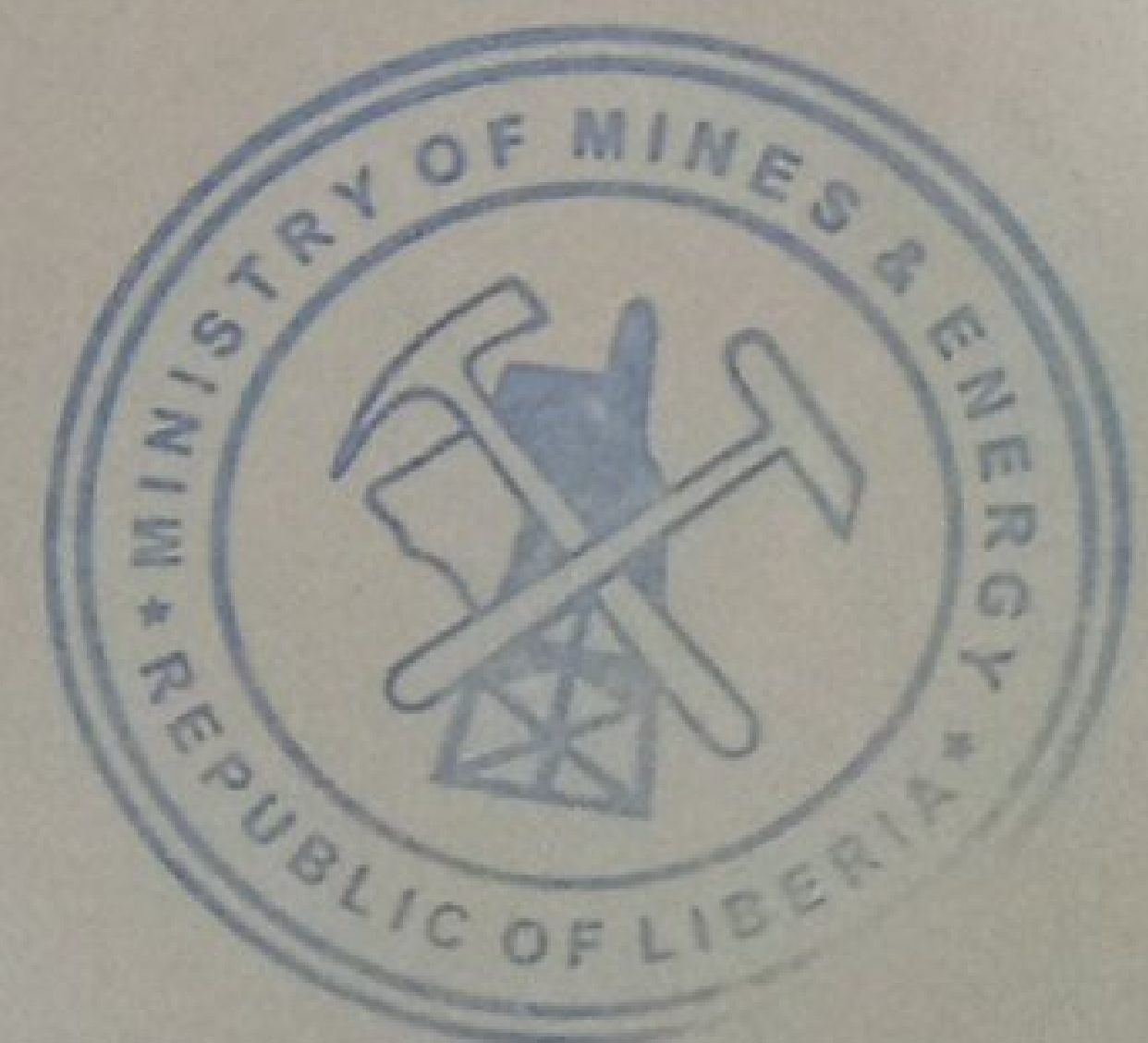
The Ministry of Mines and Energy shall conduct periodic announced and unannounced inspections at the operational site of all river sand mining companies to ensure full compliance with the Minerals and Mining Law 2000 and these Regulations.

- All river sand mining license holders shall keep all relevant documents on site at all times.
- Storage facility to keep biodegradable waste, chemical waste etc.
- Demarcation of buffer zones and Stockpile areas,
- Review of records (all records must be written in English, to include: transactions, health and safety records, river sand mining license, Data from flow meters and weighbridge, etc.)

Section 5.3 Occupational Health and Safety

The licensee shall ensure the health and safety of its operations and workers pursuant to Section 16 of the Minerals and Mining Law (2000), which shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Providing a safe working environment, safe entry, and exit to operational areas;
- b. Ensuring the cultivation of a good safety culture in the working environment;
- c. Providing adequate safety training and supervision to workers;
- d. Providing suitable tasks and site-specific personal protective equipment (PPE) to workers and visitors at all times;
- e. Instituting relevant dust suppression mechanisms prior to loading and transportation;
- f. Providing adequate welfare (first aid, workers' hygiene and sanitation, canteen, and potable water, etc.) to workers;
- g. Providing proper storage facilities for mining consumables (i.e., fuel, lubricants, gasoline, etc.), and ensuring the control of spillage and wastes of these consumables;
- h. Establishing emergency procedures, protocols and rescue plans for all operations
- i. Maintaining records of accidents, incidents, and occupational diseases;
- j. Conducting regular risk assessments to identify potential hazards and implement appropriate control measures; and



- k. Establishing and maintaining an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) management system in accordance with applicable standards.

Section 5.4 Reporting

- a. Holders of river sand mining license shall submit quarterly reports 10 days after the end of the quarter.
- b. All river sand mining license holders shall be required to submit annual reports to the Ministry no later than September 30th on their operations. The report shall be in the form and format of the template in Exhibit 2 of these regulations.
- c. At the end of License tenure, wherein the Holder intends to renew, the Licensee shall submit a summary report of operations for the initial term.
- d. Wherein the licensee does not intend renew the license, the Holder shall submit a mine closure report two months prior to the end of the license term.
- e. Wherein the deposit is depleted before the end of the license initial term, the Holder shall submit a mine closure report Forty-Five (45) days before closing the mine.

N. B. This annual report does not prevent the license holder from submitting a quarterly report for the period October to December.

Section 5.5 Violations

Any Person or entity found to be engaged in illegal or unauthorized river sand mining activities or failing to comply with these regulations shall be subject to fines, imprisonment or both in accordance with the Minerals and Mining Law 2000 and all applicable laws and regulations of the Republic of Liberia. The Ministry shall have the authority to issue warnings, suspend or revoke a license, order cessation of unsafe operations, and seize equipment used in illegal or unsafe mining activities, which shall include the following, but not limited to:

- a. **Operating without a valid Mining License and an Environmental Permit:**
 - i. Mining in prohibited areas: This includes protected areas, ecologically sensitive zones, or areas designated for public use (cemeteries, bridges, roads, communication facilities, etc.).
 - ii. Sand mining requires an Environmental Social Impact Assessment Study (ESIAS) and a subsequent Environmental Permit from the EPA.



b. Environmental and Ecological Violations:

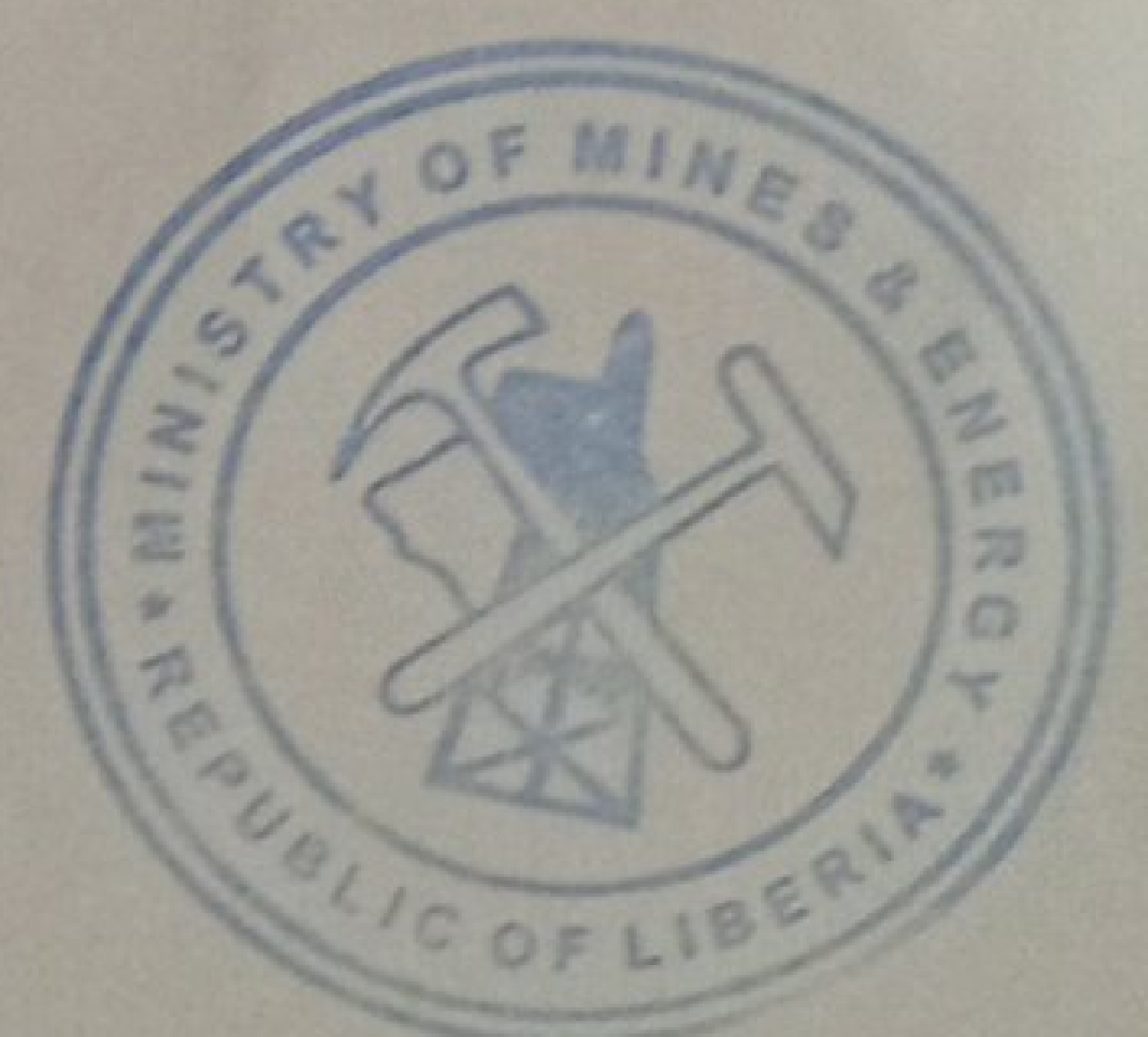
- i. Spillage of diesel and lubricants that leads to destruction of aquatic and riparian habitats: This includes harming fish populations, other aquatic organisms, and vegetation along the riverbanks.
- ii. Significant increase in water turbidity and pollution: Mining activities shall not significantly stir up sediment, increasing water turbidity.
- iii. Failure to comply with environmental management plans: License holder is required to follow specific environmental management plans to mitigate their impact.
- iv. Improper disposal of human waste which are non-biodegradable (i.e., Plastic, hoses, electric cables, etc.)

c. Operational and Administrative Violations:

- i. Transportation violations:
 - Overloading Pickups, Haulage Trucks or other transporting vehicles.
 - Not covering transported sand, leading to spillage and dust pollution. It is the License Holder's responsibility to ensure that all vehicles loaded with sand are fully covered to prevent "sand spillage" before leaving the site in line with these regulations or other applicable laws.
- ii. Tampering with the weighbridge and flow meter data.
- iii. Failure to pay royalties, taxes, and/or to meet MOU requirements.
- iv. Failure to declare mineral (gold, diamond, etc.) discovered during extraction.
- v. Non-compliance with safety regulations: This can include failing to ensure worker safety or public safety around mining sites.
- vi. Failure to submit required reports or data on operations.

Section 5.6 Penalties

Any Person or entity that violates or fail to adhere to any provision of these regulations shall be liable to penalties as prescribed by Chapter 22 of the Minerals and Mining Law 2000 and other applicable laws and regulations of Liberia.



Section 5.7 Recordkeeping Requirements

All licensees shall obtain and maintain documents and records in accordance with this Section and applicable regulations of Liberia for the respective sector or profession. Licensees shall obtain and maintain the following documents and records accurately and securely for a minimum of **seven years** after the termination of the business relationship or from the date of transaction in the case of an attempt or execution of a transaction or of an occasional transaction:

- a. All documents and other information related to the identification and verification of the customer and beneficial owner.
- b. All documents, records, and conclusions of the analysis of the customer or beneficial owner and transactions.
- c. Documents, correspondence, and details of the account and business relations of the entity.
- d. All documents and records relating to domestic and foreign transactions.
- e. Records of all assessments, surveys, and prospecting.
- f. Other documents and records as prescribed by this regulation.

Chapter 6: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 6.1: Amendments

These regulations may be amended from time to time by the Minister pursuant to chapter 21, section 21.1 of the Minerals and Mining Law 2000.

Section 6.2: Transitional Provisions

Existing river sand mining operations shall be given 6 months from the date of issuance of these regulations to comply with the requirements of these regulations.

EXHIBIT -1 River Sand Mining License Holders Work Plan Template

- ❖ **Company ownership details**
- ❖ **Introduction**
- ❖ **Project Location and Accessibility**
- ❖ **Project Investment Cost and Funding Sources**
- ❖ **Employment (Liberians and Foreigners)**
- ❖ **List of Equipment and Cost**



- ❖ Methods of Extraction (Dredging)
- ❖ Construction of a Weighbridge
- ❖ Installation of Flow Meter (attached to the hose or pipe to the dredge)
- ❖ Buffer Zones
- ❖ Stockpile Area, Loading and Transportation
- ❖ Company's Health and Safety Policy
- ❖ Estimated Annual Production
- ❖ Storage Facilities of Fuels and Waste
- ❖ Duration of Project Production
- ❖ Environmental Management Plan

**EXHIBIT -2 RIVER SAND MINING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORTING
TEMPLATE**

