



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries

PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL QUARRYING

Eliminating illegal quarrying is a top priority for the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries ("MEEI"). In this regard, persons who commit the key offences listed below are liable, upon summary conviction, to the increased fines and penalties as amended pursuant to the Minerals Act, Chapter 61:03 and the State Lands Act, Chapter 57:01. These revised penalties are contained in the recently assented Finance Act of 2021.

Offences under Section 45 of the Minerals Act, Chapter 61:03:

Offence

A person who explores for, mines, processes, imports or exports any mineral without a licence issued by the MEEI:

Fine and Imprisonment

Upon first conviction – a fine of **\$1,500,000.00** and imprisonment for **15 years**.

Upon subsequent conviction – a fine of **\$2,100,000.00** and imprisonment for **21 years**.

A person who knowingly purchases any mineral from a person who is not the holder of a licence or trades in such mineral or knowingly makes a false statement or fraudulent representation in connection with an application for a licence:

A fine of **\$1,500,000.00** and imprisonment for **15 years**.

A person who fails to notify the Director of Minerals of the discovery of any minerals not authorised by his licence; or who fails to maintain any book, record or other document that he is required to maintain; or who obstructs or interferes with the Director of Minerals or a person authorised by him in the exercise of his duties; or who pollutes any watercourse in the exercise of his mining operations:

A fine of **\$1,500,000.00** and imprisonment for **15 years**.

A person who otherwise contravenes the Minerals Act:

A fine of **\$600,000.00** and imprisonment for **6 years**.

Offences under the State Lands Act, Chapter 57:01:

Under Section 25 of the Act, a person who digs or wins or removes, or is in any way concerned in the digging, winning, or removing of material on or from any State lands in Trinidad and Tobago without a licence is liable:

Offence

(a) Where the material dug, won, or removed is asphalt:

Fine and Imprisonment

(a) Upon first conviction – a fine of **\$900,000.00** and imprisonment for **9 years**.

Upon subsequent conviction – a fine of **\$1,500,000.00** and imprisonment for **15 years**.

(b) Where material other than asphalt is dug, won, or removed:

(b) Upon first conviction – a fine of **\$360,000.00** and imprisonment for **3 years**.

Upon subsequent conviction – a fine of **\$900,000.00** and imprisonment for **9 years**.

The MEEI will continue to take all required actions and employ such mechanisms deemed necessary in the fight to eradicate illegal quarrying. We encourage persons to assist in this task by reporting illegal quarry operations to the MEEI.

For further information you can contact:
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries
Level 26, Tower C, International Waterfront Centre
1 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain
Tel: 1-868-225-4334
Email: commsinfo@energy.gov.tt