

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1150, June 06, 1977 ]

## **AMMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 581 AND REGULATING PANNING OR SLUICING FOR GOLD INSIDE MINING CLAIMS OR IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LANDS**

**WHEREAS**, Presidential Decree No. 581 was enacted to curb "highgrading" or the theft of gold from a mining claim or mining camp which is a serious problem affecting both the gold mining industry and the government;

**WHEREAS**, in order to further strengthen the purposes of Presidential Decree No. 581, it is necessary to regulate or prohibit certain acts or activities, among which are gold "panning" or "sluicing" in public or private lands, and the use or possession of raw gold, gold amalgam, or mercury within a mining claim or mining camp;

**WHEREAS**, gold panning or sluicing which has been increasing lately should be a regulated activity, such that while it may provide a source of lawful livelihood to individuals without resulting in a loss to the government of foreign exchange or taxes generated by the gold produced from such activities, necessary safeguards or protective measures may be adopted against such activity as a subterfuge for highgrading activities;

**WHEREAS**, "highgraders" use mercury in extracting the gold content from mined gold-bearing rocks thereby producing what is known as gold amalgam and in which form the surreptitious extraction of the stolen gold from the mines or the mine site is greatly facilitated;

**WHEREAS**, mercury is not a household necessity in a mining camp and the possession by a mining employee thereof inside the camp gives rise to the suspicion that the same will be used to amalgamate gold;

**WHEREAS**, making punishable the unauthorized possession by any person of raw gold, gold amalgam, or mercury within a mining camp or mining claim will further strengthen the objectives of Presidential Decree No. 581;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I FERDINAND E. MARCOS**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby issue this Decree amending Presidential Decree No. 581, and regulating panning or sluicing for gold inside mining claims or in public or private lands as follows:

SECTION 1. Subject to the provisions hereof, the panning or sluicing of loose sediments for the purpose of extracting gold from creeks, streams or rivers inside mining claims, and from private or public lands, shall be allowed.

SEC. 2. An individual may apply for a permit to pan or sluice with the Mines Regional Officer having jurisdiction over the area upon payment of an application fee of P30,000. The permit shall cover an area of not more than 2,000 square meters and shall be for a period not exceeding three (3) months renewable for the same period.