



**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL;
EASTERN ZONE BENCH; KOLKATA**

O.A. No. 28/2025/EZ

Haripriya Patel

....Applicant

Versus

State of Odisha & Ors

....Respondents

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF
RESPONDENT NO.4 (PURI MUNICIPALITY)**

I, Sri Abhimanyu Behera, aged about 53 years, S/o- Lt. Kashinath Behera at present working as Executive Officer, Puri Municipality, Puri, Dist- Puri, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That, I have been duly authorized to swear this affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.4 in this case.
2. That, I have gone through the contents of the original application and have understood the same. I am also otherwise acquainted with the facts of the case.
3. That, the original application, is taken up on letter petition filed by the present applicant bringing to the notice of this Hon'ble Tribunal based on an newspaper article published in the newspaper Sambad on 19.12.2024 titled as "Burning Baliapanda Waste Hills: Everyone suffers from the respiratory problems, Bio mining Process begins yet fire persists", where it has been emphasized about the dumping yard at Baliapanda which is situated at 50-100 meters away from the Puri Sea Beach and a few Kilometre away from Puri Jagannath Temple which is causing difficulty to the residents staying adjacent to the Baliapanda Dumping yard

Abhimanyu Behera
Executive Officer,
Puri Municipality, Puri

PRADIPTA KUMAR MOHANTY
Notary, Cuttack Town
Regd.No-ON-04/1995

due to uncontrolled waste dump without processing such waste as per solid waste disposal rules.

4. That, on the perusal of the order dtd.24.03.2025 of the Hon'ble Learned Tribunal and the contents of the article, the issue is relating to the problems relating to the dumping yard at Baliapanda which is situated at 50-100 meters away from the Sea Beach and the Puri Jagannath Temple which is causing difficulty to the residents staying adjacent to the Baliapanda Dumping yard due to uncontrolled waste dump without processing such waste as per solid waste disposal rules. The article further states that, even though, bio-mining process has been initiated in Baliapanda, Puri to manage waste efficiently with recycling and composting but in spite of these efforts, garbage fires continues, releasing harmful smoke, endangering the health of local residents.

5. That, the deponent craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to submit relevant facts, so far and to the extent, the role of the Puri Municipality is concerned;

- i. The Dumping Yard at Baliapanda was operational since 1984 which is about in 5.00 ACs of Land. There was no habitation around the dumping yard then. The present habitation is developed by encroachers in Govt. land in recent years.
- ii. That, the main reason of fire at dumpsite is that the biodegradable fraction composts faster, increasing the temperature of the heat to beyond 70-80 degree Celsius with the presence of methane gas mainly in summer season. Besides miscreants from the nearby habitant are also responsible for fire for various reasons such as throwing burning cigarettes etc.

Abhinav Behera
Executive Officer,
Puri Municipality, Puri.



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Notary, Cuttack Town
Regd.No-ON-04/1995

iii. That, the fact stated by the petitioner is the same subject matter of O.A. No. 51/2023/EZ filed by Chinmaya Das vrs State of Odisha & others which was disposed on 17.07.2023 by Hon'ble NGT with various direction & Puri Municipality is working on compliance to these direction as follows.

- a. The construction of boundary wall around the dumping Yard has been started on 04.11.2024 and nearing completion.
- b. Puri Municipality has started bio-mining of legacy wastes through an agency. The agency has completed bio mining of 2,24,880 MT of legacy wastes which was initially assessed. However later a significant quantity of waste in highly compressed manner was found lying at the site. Accordingly drone survey was conducted and assessed that additional quantity of 1,67,024 MT legacy waste is present. Govt in H&UD Deptt. has approved the proposal for continuation of bio-mining process for remediation of remaining legacy wastes through the existing agency with prevailing terms & conditions. Puri Municipality is talking all possible steps & efforts to complete the remediation process. The agency has also increased their machinery deployment to enhance the process.
- c. Puri municipality has installed CCTV cameras & security guards through the agency at the site. After installation of CCTV & deployment of security guards, the unlawful entry of the mischievous people in the dumping yard has been restricted & since then there is no incident of fire reported. Fire service is also available on call to attend immediately in case there is any fire incident.
- d. Puri Municipality is taking all possible steps & efforts to complete the remediation process.

Abhinamya Behera
Executive Officer,
Puri Municipality, Puri

6. That, the deponent craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal, to file any such further affidavit, if so required, in the course of hearing, for proper adjudication of the matter.

7. That, the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge, belief & materials on record.

Identified by
[Signature]
Advocate

(Pranoy Mohanty)
Dt 7-7-2025.

Abhimanyu Behera
DEPONENT
Executive Officer,
Sun Municipality, Purl.



Solemnly sworn before
me by..... *A. Behera*
being identified by..... *P. Mohanty* *Alswat*
at Cuttack Town Dated..... *07/07/2025*
07/07/2025
P.K. MOHANTY, Notary, Cuttack Town
Regd. No-ON-04/1995