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Before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal

Eastern Zone, Kolkata.

Original Application No.166 of 2025

In the matter of:

S.D. Lodha ... Applicant

Versus

State of Arunachal Pradesh and Ors...

...Respondents



AFFIDAVIT

I, Shri Mori Riba , son of Tamo Riba, aged about 59 years, presently serving as Divisional Forest Officer, Banderdewa Forest Division, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, having my office at Banderdewa do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I am the Divisional Forest Officer, Banderdewa, and am fully conversant with the facts and records of the case relating to the construction activity from Donyi Polo Airport to Naharlagun Railway Station. And other construction activities being undertaken within the boundary of Drupong Reserved Forests as pointed out by the applicant. I am duly authorised by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Arunachal Pradesh, to swear and file this affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 6 i.e. Forest Department,

Government of Arunachal Pradesh in compliance with the proceedings and directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal, as reflected in the application dated 16.09.2025.



2. That this affidavit is being filed to place on record the factual and action-taken status with respect to the issues noted by this Hon'ble Tribunal concerning unauthorised construction activity, violation of forest laws, and protection of forest land.
3. That it is respectfully submitted that the User Agency, namely Public Works Department (PWD), Itanagar, had initiated construction work related to the said road connectivity without obtaining prior approval under the provisions of the Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam, 1980 (VSESA, 1980).
4. That upon detection of the said violation, the Forest Department initiated statutory action in accordance with law. A violation case has been registered against the PWD, Itanagar, and the matter has been placed before the Hon'ble Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Papum Pare District, Yupia having competent jurisdiction, for contravention of the provisions of VSESA, 1980, as also recorded in the proceedings placed before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

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5. That pursuant thereto, and in discharge of my statutory duties, I, as DFO, Banderdewa, have ordered stoppage of all construction activities at the site with immediate effect, and no further work is being permitted till due compliance with the forest conservation laws is achieved.
6. That it is further submitted that the User Agency has subsequently applied for prior approval of the competent authority of the Government of India under VSESA, 1980. After examination at the State Government level, and with due approval of the State Government, the proposal has been forwarded to the Government of India, clearly categorising the matter as a violation case under VSESA, 1980, for consideration in accordance with applicable guidelines.
7. That with regard to issues relating to illegal earth cutting, encroachments, and other unauthorised activities in and around the Drupong Reserved Forest, as noted during inspections and proceedings, necessary directions have been issued for strengthening forest protection measures.
8. That in compliance with the said directions, regular and intensified patrolling, surveillance, and monitoring are being carried out by the field staff under my control to prevent recurrence of any illegal activity within notified forest areas.



9. That it is further submitted that the matter is being regularly reviewed at the highest level, and review meetings under the chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Arunachal Pradesh, are being held periodically to assess enforcement action, compliance status, and protection of forest land.



10. That the Forest Department is acting strictly in accordance with law, the provisions of VSESA, 1980, and the directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal, and shall continue to do so in letter and spirit.

11. That the statements made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, based on official records, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

VERIFICATION

I, Shri Mori Riba, S/o Tamo Riba aged about 59 years do hereby verify that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 11 of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and based on official records.

Verified at **Banderdewa** on this **2nd day** of **January, 2026**.

DEPONENT



Name : Shri Mori Riba
Designation : Divisional Forest Officer,
Banderdewa.



Solemnly affirmed and signed before me on this *2nd* day of January, 2026 at Banderdewa.


02.01.26
Nending Kago
Notary
ICR Itanagar-19/23