

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA**

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

M.A. NO. 15 OF 2026

IN

O.A. NO. 170 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item Titled Barricade, Illegal Sand Mining Pose Threat To

WGH Riverbank Appearing In The Shillong Times Dated- 29.06.2024

... Applicant

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Filed By:

Dated: 18.03.2026



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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION NO. 15 OF 2026
IN
O.A. NO. 170 of 2024**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item Titled Barricade,
Illegal Sand Mining Pose Threat To
WGH Riverbank Appearing In
The Shillong Times Dated- 29.06.2024

... Applicant

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.4
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WEST GARO HILLS DISTRICT**

I, Vibhor Aggarwal, IAS, the Deputy Commissioner of West Garo Hills District, Tura, Government of Meghalaya having office at the Deputy Commissioner Office, West Garo Hills District, Tura, Meghalaya – 794 001, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am presently posted as the Deputy Commissioner of West Garo Hills District, Baghmara, the Respondent No.2 in the captioned case. Being conversant with the facts and records of the present case in my official capacity, I am competent and authorized to swear this affidavit.
2. That this Hon'ble Tribunal has been pleased to take *suo moto* cognizance of the issue of soil erosion of embankment of Rongia

SL. No. 6039
Date 18-03-2026

Deputy Commissioner,
West Garo Hills, Tura



D 12/03/2026
D. Tulshyan

Notary West Garo Hills Meghalaya

riverin O.A. No. 170 of 2024 and has been pleased to dispose it off with, inter-alia, following directions:

“34. We may further observe that since the Central Water Commission (CWC) has decided to revive the Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project, no directions in that regard are required at this stage. It is however made clear that the project as and when executed, shall ensure compliance of environmental norms and take care that there is no erosion of river bank soil. However, the State Government is directed to take a decision in this regard within three months. In case, however, it is decided not to revive the Project, the State Respondents shall take steps to remove the obstructions created in the free flow of the river Rengali. This exercise shall be completed within a further two months.

35. The Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills shall file affidavit of compliance by 31.12.2025.”

3. That at the outset, the deponent tenders his unconditional apology for not filing the compliance affidavit within the time granted by this Hon’ble Tribunal. The previous compliances in the Original Application have been filed by the predecessor of the deponent herein and it is most humbly prayed that the inadvertent oversight of the deponent herein for not filing the affidavit as directed and within the time granted by this Hon’ble Tribunal may kindly be condoned by this Hon’ble Tribunal.
4. That after receiving of notice of the Miscellaneous Application issued by this Hon’ble Tribunal vide order dated 17.02.2026, the deponent went through the case files and order passed by this



Deputy Commissioner,
West Garo Hills, Tura

18/02/2026

D. Tulshyan
Notary, West Garo Hills Meghalaya

Hon'ble Tribunal and accordingly sought information from the Public Works Department as to status of the proposed project and consequent actions taken by the said Department of State Government.

5. That it is most respectfully submitted that the deponent is in receipt of a letter bearing No. RV/MI/SP/2025/14 dated 17.03.2026 from the Project Engineer, PWD (Rds.), Rongai Valle Medium Irrigation stating therein the project was stuck in litigation with the then contractor and a decree against PWD has been issued by the concerned Civil Court. The PWD Department has ensured that sheet-piles will be removed from the river after paying off the decree amount to the contractor, but no time-line has been provided in the letter. It has also been stated that no further erosion of riverbank has been observed after the protection efforts made by the PWD during the pendency of the Original Application. A copy of the letter of Project Engineer, PWD (Rds.), Rongai Valle Medium Irrigation Project dated 17.03.2026 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE R-4/1**.
6. That it is most respectfully submitted that since the office of the deponent has received the letter of PWD only on 17.03.2026, no further instructions/clarification can be sought from the PWD as to



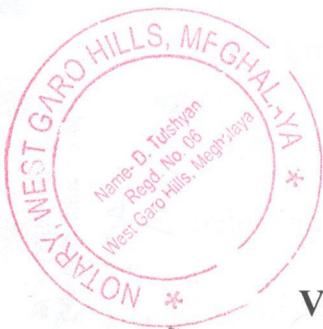
[Signature]
Deputy Commissioner,
West Garo Hills, Tura

[Signature]
18/03/2026

whether the project has been abandoned and if so, the proposed time-lines for removing the sheet-piles from the river. It is thus most humbly prayed that some more time may kindly be granted by this Hon'ble Tribunal for seeking further clarifications from PWD and Water Resources Department of the State Government.

7. That the aforesaid information may kindly be taken on record in compliance of the notice issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal and appropriate orders may please be passed.

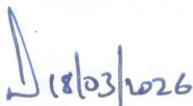
It is prayed accordingly.




DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

Verified at Tura on this 18th day of March 2026 that the content of the above affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief based on official records of the Government of Meghalaya and that nothing is false and nothing material is concealed therefrom.


18/03/2026

D. Tulshyan
Notary West Garo Hills Meghalaya


DEPONENT



**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT ENGINEER PWD (ROADS)
RONGAI VALLEY MEDIUM IRRIGATION PROJECT, CHIBINANG
WEST GARO HILLS DISTRICT.**

No.RV/MI/SP/2025/14

Dated Chibinang, the 17th March, 2026

To,

The Deputy Commissioner,
West Garo Hills, Tura

Subject: Status on Removal of Sheet Pile from the Barrage under Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project to address erosion issue.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I have the honor to inform you on the current status of Removal of Sheet Piles from the Barrage under Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project, Chibinang in order to address the riverbank erosion on the upstream of the barrage.

Sheet Piles are constructed as part of the coffer dam which serve as temporary barrier during the course of construction of the barrage. However, these Sheet Piles are not removed when the construction stopped. In course of time, the Sheet piles obstructed the water ways and began to block the smooth flow of the water and started causing erosion at the bank of the river at the upstream side of the barrage. However, since the project is sub judiced in the court, removal of the Sheet Piles from the site may be interpreted as destroying of the evidence. Moreover, the removal of the pile sheet from the bottom may involved huge amount.

During 2023-24, efforts were made by the Department to protect the erosion of the banks by construction of palasiding / protection works at the bank of the river. Thereafter, no more erosion has been noticed.

In the meantime, payment for outstanding liabilities as per the decree of the Honorable Court of the Assistant District Judge is under process. The matter has been discussed with the Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) who advised for expediting the process.

As soon as the Contractor is paid off, the Sheet Piles will be removed under the circumstances.

Additionally, we remain committed to explore any feasible solutions that may help alleviate the erosion problem without violating the court directives.

Yours faithfully,

(Shri S. Warbah)
Project Engineer, PWD(Rds),
Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation
Chibinang, West Garo Hills

Dated Chibinang, the 17th March, 2025

No.RV/MI/SP/2025/14-A

Copy to:

1. The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Rds), Meghalaya, Shillong for favour of kind information.
2. The Additional Chief Engineer, Western Zone, Tura for favour of kind information.
3. Office File.

(Shri S. Warbah)
Project Engineer, PWD(Rds),
Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation
Chibinang, West Garo Hills