

**HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 497/2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

News item titled "Impact of Pharmaceutical toxicity on the environment and its regulatory aspects" appearing in Current Science dated 25.02.2024.

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Filed on: 02.12.2024  
New Delhi

Filed by

*Enatoli*

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HON'BLE NATINAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
 PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
 Original Application No. 497/2024

**IN THE MATTER OF:-**

*News item titled "Impact of Pharmaceutical toxicity on the environment and its regulatory aspects" appearing in Current Science dated 25.02.2024*

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.24- STATE OF NAGALAND**

I, E. MHONBEMO PATTON, S/o  
EZAMO PATTON LOTIHA Age 58 years, working as  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &  
CLIMATE CHANGE, Nagaland-  
 110037, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under :-

1. That in my official capacity, in the above-mentioned matter, I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. This Hon'ble Tribunal on 6.5.2024 was pleased to observe as under:-

“2. The news item discloses that pharmaceutical-induced environmental contamination needs urgent attention because around 43% of global rivers are facing risks from Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). The continuous emissions are posing potential hazards to the environment and human health. It also states that discussions on chemical waste reduction face

limitations due to incomplete knowledge about their toxicity to humans. It discloses that pharmacies sometimes cannot filter all the chemicals used in pharmaceutical production (e.g. solvents, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), excipients, additives, by-products, intermediates, etc.). These chemicals cause ecosystem imbalances that give rise to chemical pollution in the environment. The article discloses the causes of pharmaceutical pollution as under:

“(1) Drug ingestion and excretion: When organisms consume pharmaceuticals, their bodies metabolize and excrete inactive metabolites as waste products, eventually finding their way into the environment through urine and faecal matter.

(2) Healthcare institutions disposal: Hospitals and healthcare facilities contribute significantly to pharmaceutical pollution due to inadequate disposal practices or contraventions in rules and regulations of standards.

(3) Drug manufacturing units: Some drug manufacturers dispose of excess drugs and other used chemicals/by-products in landfills or flush them, leading to pollution through wastewater run-off.

(4) Domestication of animals: Drugs fed to domestic animals are not always entirely metabolized, resulting in the excretion of excess pharmaceuticals. This leads to the settling of metabolites in the top layers of the soil (Figure 1).

(5) Agricultural usage: Insecticides and pesticides sprayed on agricultural products can contaminate the surrounding ecosystem.

(6) Domestic drug use and disposal: Improper disposal of pharmaceutical and personal care products by consumers results in the pollution of streams, groundwater, lakes and rivers. Pharmaceutical waste, chemical waste, personal care products and their waste results in pollution in household as well as in environment.”

3. It also discloses the types of pharmaceutical pollutants as under:

“(1) Hazardous chemicals: These are chemical compounds or chemicals that cause serious harm. For example, gases such as hydrogen chloride, benzene and toluene, or compounds and metals such as asbestos, cadmium, mercury and chromium.

(2) Non-hazardous pollutants: These are substances found in the workplace that do not cause any harmful effects to the employees on exposure. These pollutants may not be immediately toxic in low concentrations, their cumulative effects can still have significant impacts on human health, ecosystems and the environment as a whole.

(3) Chemotherapy waste: Chemotherapy waste includes chemicals from pharmaceutical medications and personal care products. It includes empty medicine bottles and other medications.

(4) Inert waste: This refers to waste that is not chemical or biological and does not react either with any other compounds leading to accumulation in environment. These compounds are not biodegradable. Examples are sand and gravel, which are particularly relevant to landfills because inert waste

generally requires lower disposal cost than biodegradable or compostable waste. It includes glass insulation, metal, wood, etc.

(5) Radioactive hazardous pollutants: Radioactive (or nuclear) wastes are the products of nuclear power plants, powerplants, hospitals and research facilities. Nuclear waste is also generated when nuclear reactors and other nuclear facilities are dismantled and destroyed. There are grouped into two broad categories: high-level radioactive waste and low-level radioactive waste. Examples include I-125, F-18 and I-131.

(6) Biohazardous pollutants: Biohazardous wastes (such as blood, body fluids and human cells), also known as biological waste, are potentially infectious and considered to threaten public health and the environment.”

3. It is further stated that while issuing notice, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to direct as under:-

“11. Let notice be issued to the above respondents, except the CPCB who is already represented through the Counsel, for filing their response at least one week before the next date of hearing disclosing the compliance of the norms by pharmaceutical company, the regulatory guidelines in force, number of pharmaceutical companies in each of the State and number of such companies complying with norms and number of companies against whom action is taken for

violation of the norms as also the proposed action for prevention of environment from pharmaceutical toxicity.”

4. It is humbly stated that in the State of Nagaland there are no pharmaceutical industry as per the report of the Nagaland State Pollution Control Board.

A copy of communication dated 22.7.2024 issued in this regard is marked and annexed as Annexure R/1.

5. I say that the facts stated in the above paras are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and information.

VERIFICATION

Verified at \_\_\_\_\_ on this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

*Imfallon*  
DEPONENT

Principal Secretary  
Dept of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Government Of Nagaland

*Imfallon*  
DEPONENT  
Principal Secretary  
Dept of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Government Of Nagaland



# NAGALAND POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

ANNEXURE- R/1

6

Signal Point, Dimapur – 797112, Nagaland  
Tel.: 03862-245727, TeleFax: 03862-245726

Website: www.npcb.nagaland.gov.in e-mail: npcb2@yahoo.com

NPCB/NGT-O.A.No.497/2024/ 1035

Dated 22/07/2024

To

✓ Hatneikim Kipgen  
Joint Secretary to the Government of Nagaland  
Department of Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Nagaland, Kohima

Sub: O.A No. 497/2024: News item titled "Impact of Pharmaceutical toxicity on the environment and its regulatory aspects" appearing in Current Science dated 25.02.2024

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.FOR/NGT-25/07/2024/568 Kohima, Dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 on the above cited subject, I would like to state that there are no pharmaceutical industry in the state of Nagaland as per the record of the Nagaland Pollution Control Board.

*P/28<sup>c</sup>*

This is for your kind information.

Yours Sincerely,

*[Signature]*  
(K. Hukato Chishi IFS)  
Member Secretary

*So*  
*P.u. in relevant file.*

*[Signature]*  
*27/8/24*

*Jeff*  
*Jacob*  
*27/8/24*

Receipt No. 1234 28/8/24  
Dept. Environment  
Nagaland Civil Secretariat

## VAKALATNAMA

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 497 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News item titled "Impact of Pharmaceutical toxicity on the environment and its regulatory aspects" appearing in Current Science dated 25.02.2024.

KNOW ALL to whom these presents shall come that I/We, E. NIMONBEMO PATTON do hereby appoint K.

Enatoli Sema, Advocate, Enrollment number D- 1931-A/2005, to be my/our Advocates in the above noted case and authorize them:

To act, appear and plead in the above-noted case in this Court or in any other Court in which the same may be tried or heard and also in the Appellate Court including High Court subject to payment of fees separately for each court by me.

To sign, file, verify and present pleadings, appeals, cross-objections or petitions for executions review, revision, withdraw, compromise or other petitions or affidavits or other documents as may be deemed necessary or proper for the execution of the said case in all its stages subject to payment of fees for each stage.

To file and take back documents, to admit and/or deny the documents of opposite party. Submit to arbitration any differences or disputes that may arise touching or in any manner relating to the said case.

To take execution proceedings. To deposit, draw and receive moneys, cheques, cash and grant receipts thereof and to do all other acts and things which may be necessary to be done for the progress and in the course of the prosecution of the said case.

To appoint and instruct other Legal practitioner or person, authorizing him to exercise the power and authority hereby conferred upon the Advocates whatever he may think fit to do so and sign the power of attorney;

And I the undersigned do hereby agree to ratify and confirm all acts done by the Advocates or their substitute in the matter as my own acts, as if done by me to all intents and purposes. And I undersigned undertake that I or my duly authorized agent would appear in court on all hearings and will inform the Advocates for appearance when the case is called.

And I undersigned do hereby agree not to hold the advocate or his substitute responsible for the result of the said case. And I the undersigned do hereby agree that in the event of the whole or part of the fee agreed by me to be paid to the advocates remaining unpaid they shall be entitled to withdraw from the prosecution of the said case until the same is paid up. The fee settled is only for the above case and above court. I hereby agree that once the fee is paid, I will not be entitled for the refund of the same in any case whatsoever.

And I the undersigned do hereby agree that I shall not claim any compensation, nor the Advocate/s shall be liable for any compensation if he/she fails to appear in the Court or fails to conduct or withdraw from the case due to non-payment of fee as per settlement or for reason of any request/ call given by Bar Association/s or Council/s.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I/We do hereunto set my/our hand to these presents the contents of which have been understood by us on this \_\_\_ day of September, 2024.

Accepted subject to the terms of fee.

*Enatoli*

**K. ENATOLI SEMA**  
ADVOCATES

*Patton*

CLIENT

CLIENT

Principal Secretary  
Dept of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Government Of Nagaland



amit singh &lt;semasingh.office@gmail.com&gt;

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**Original Application No. 497/2024, News item titled "Impact of Pharmaceutical toxicity on the environment and its regulatory aspects" appearing in Current Science dated 25.02.2024**

1 message

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**amit singh** <semasingh.office@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 11:36 AM

To: Madhumita Bhattacharjee <bhattacharjee.madhumita@gmail.com>, "Adv. Manoranjan Paikaray" <mpaikray@gmail.com>, d.baijal89@gmail.com, shubhambhalla@hotmail.com, jyoti.legal@gmail.com, Office Akurup <office@akurup.com>, AOR <ramesh1pukhrambam@gmail.com>, Nishe Shonker <nrshonker@gmail.com>, Jogy Scaria <advjogy@gmail.com>

Dear Sir/Madam

Kindly Find attached scanned copy of Affidavit being e- filed on behalf of Nagaland State Pollution Control Board, which is being served in advance copy as proof of service.

Thanking you.

Best Regards,  
Ms.K.Enatoli Sema Adv.  
State of Nagaland

(Clerk)  
Rahul Mo. 7503630697

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 **Affidavit.pdf**  
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