



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 27
Series of 2022

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROACTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT INJURIES AND DAMAGES TO LIVES AND LIMBS AND TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF RESIDENTS IN SMALL SCALE MINING AREAS AT THE ONSET OF RAINY SEASON.

WHEREAS, the entire country is experiencing continuous rains caused by various weather systems, the most common of which is the enhanced southwest monsoon otherwise known as “Habagat;”

WHEREAS, moderate to heavy rains is affecting the locality almost every day, increasing the risk of mass landslides on highly saturated mountains and sudden rise of water level in our river systems;

WHEREAS, ground saturation also causes other forms of hazards such as flashfloods, collapse of tunnels or cave-ins, surface tension cracks and sink holes endangering people and/or communities in areas that are highly susceptible to hazards;

WHEREAS, among those who are often victims of hazards are the small scale miners who openly defy appropriate Orders and instructions from competent authorities and the force of nature as well;

WHEREAS, public safety is among our primordial considerations hence, the need to implement preventive measures to ensure that our inhabitants who are immediately at risk shall be saved from any impending hazards;

NOW THEREFORE I, BERNARD S. WACLIN, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law as Municipal Mayor of Itogon, Benguet, hereby ORDER and DECLARE as follows:

Section 1. Cessation of Operations of all Unauthorized Small Scale Mining Activities. All unauthorized underground small scale mining activities within the municipality are hereby directed to CEASE and DECIST operations pursuant to the STOPPAGE ORDER issued by then DENR Secretary Roy P. Cimatu which is still valid and in effect up to the present, unless such order is revoked or canceled by the issuing agency, or, unless the affected small scale miners are granted authority to operate in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Small Scale Mining Act (R.A. 7076) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other related laws and issuances.

Provided further, that the MDRRMO in coordination with MGB-CAR and with the assistance of Itogon Municipal Police Station shall conduct an inventory of all unauthorized small scale mining adits in the municipality, keep and maintain an updated record of the same and shall likewise conduct an Information, education and communication (IEC) to small scale miners on the process of legitimizing their operations as well as the penalties for illegal small scale mining operations. For this purpose, the MDRRMO shall upon effectivity of this order, prepare a schedule for such activities including the different timelines to be observed in the conduct thereof.

Section 2. Temporary Suspension of Small Scale Mining Operations ON Areas Declared as Minahang Bayans with Valid and Existing Agreements with the DENR. Underground small scale mining activities on areas declared as Minahang Bayans shall be automatically suspended at the occurrence of heavy downpours, monsoon rains or continuous raining for two days or more and during typhoons which suspension shall commence before landfall. Provided further that all small scale mining organizations through their respective officers shall police their own ranks by disallowing the entry of miners in their respective tunnels, and/or by immediately directing miners inside to pull out upon observation that an impending rain is approaching.

Section 3. Application of the Preceding Section to Quarrying and Gold Panning: The aforementioned provision shall likewise apply in similar manner to quarrying and gold panning activities along Ambalanga River and Lower Agno particularly at Barangays Gumatdang, Poblacion, Tinongdan and Dalupirip. Provided finally that in anticipation of the sudden increase in water level as a result of heavy rainfall in the upstream barangays, quarrying and/or gold panning activities in barangays Loacan, Poblacion, Gumatdang, Tinongdan and Dalupirip shall be suspended temporarily.

Section 2. Preemptive Evacuation. Residents staying in areas where progressive tension cracks are present and near landslide prone areas are hereby directed to vacate and stay on safer grounds. Provided further that affected residents may opt to stay temporarily in designated evacuation centers, or stay temporarily with their respective relatives residing away from hazard prone areas, or at their own expense, in transient houses or apartments situated in safe areas.

Section 3. Provision of Support Services. The MDRRMO in coordination with the MSWDO, PNP, Barangay Officials and SSM Associations shall conduct an assessment of the affected areas most especially those areas under high risk category for contingency planning, profiling and identifying the kind of assistance that may be provided to the affected communities or individuals.

Section 4. Force Evacuation. Pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations, forced evacuation shall be implemented as the situation warrants. For this purpose, the PNP, together with the MDRRMO and other law enforcement bodies are hereby advised to spearhead the implementation of this provision.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. All Administrative Orders and executive issuances inconsistent with this ORDER or parts hereof are deemed repealed accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately.

LET copies of this ORDER be furnished all concerned for information.

DONE this 28th day of July, 2022 at Itogon, Benguet.


HON. BERNARD S. WACLIN
Municipal Mayor