



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 16
Series of 2024

ORDERING THE CESSATION OF ALL SMALL-SCALE MINING OPERATIONS TO INCLUDE QUARRYING AND GOLD PANNING TO PREVENT INJURIES AND THE DESTRUCTION OF LIVES, PARTICULARLY OF SMALL-SCALE MINERS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE FAMILIES AT THE ONSET OF THE RAINY SEASON.

WHEREAS, the entire Municipality of Itogon is experiencing continuous heavy rainfall due to the Enhanced Southwest Monsoon caused by Typhoon Carina, resulting in oversaturation of water within land masses, huge volumes of surface run-off and rise in water levels along our river systems;

WHEREAS, the occurrence of rain-induced hazards is very imminent in this mountainous region such as landslides, mudflow, flashfloods, collapse of tunnels or cave-ins, surface tension cracks and sink holes, all endangering people and/or communities in areas that are highly susceptible to hazards;

WHEREAS, the Municipal Government seeks to prevent the recurrence of past incidents where often times, 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 the safety of people working in high-risk areas by keeping them away from high hazard susceptible workplaces in this time of rainy season;

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. Reiteration of Previous Orders Directing the 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 **DESIST** operations pursuant to the **STOPPAGE ORDER** issued by then DENR Secretary Roy P. Cimatú which is still valid and in effect up to the present.

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 are hereby **SUSPENDED** while the locality is still experiencing heavy downpours, monsoon rains or continuous raining until the weather condition has stabilized and the situation warrants resumption of underground works. 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.

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 due to sudden increase in water level because of continuous heavy rainfall and/or releasing of water by Binga HEPP, quarrying and/or gold panning activities in barangays Loacan, Poblacion, Gumatdang, Tinongdan and Dalupirip shall be suspended temporarily.

Section 4. 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 5. 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 6. 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 7. Repealing Clause. All Orders and other executive issuances inconsistent with this ORDER or parts hereof are deemed repealed accordingly.

Section 8. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately.

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

DONE this 25th day of July, 2024 at Itogon, Benguet.


HON. BERNARD S. WACLIN
Municipal Mayor