



དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། Royal Government of Bhutan
ལྷོན་ཚེན། Prime Minister



C-2/2043

10 May, 2010.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Bhutan's construction industry is acutely constrained by the inadequate availability of high quality stone chips that has not only affected the construction quality but delayed the completion of extremely important development projects. At the moment, the stone chips are not only unavailable when most required, but are of inferior quality while the price charged is unreasonably high. The problem is further aggravated by cumbersome and lengthy procedures involved in obtaining clearances and approval for the establishment of quarries.

Considering the above constraints, the Natural Resources Development Corporation Ltd. (NRDCL) was restructured and mandated with the operation and marketing of stone, sand and sawn timber to the construction industry as well as the people of the country in November 2007. As additional measures to make the supply of stone chips and sand more efficient and timely, the 68th Session of the Lhengye Zhungtshog held on 6th April 2010 has accorded the following approval:

- i) The NRDCL shall establish and operate stone quarries and crushing units in areas prioritized and identified by the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement (MoWHS). The NRDCL should begin the preparatory work immediately so that the stone crushing units are operational by June 2011.
- ii) All concerned Ministries shall expedite the approval process for the implementation of this government directive without delay. The Department of Geology and Mines (DGM) and the Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) in particular shall issue the clearances at the earliest keeping in mind the urgency of the task.
- iii) All concerned Dzongkhag Administrations and local governments shall ensure the timely issue of clearances.
- iv) The DGM shall ensure that the biggest mines are allotted to the NRDCL as it is a government agency.

To fast-track the clearances and awarding processes, the government has also decided to form a high-level committee with the following members:

- i) Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs : Chairman
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- ii) Director, Department of Forests & Park Services, MoAF : Member
- iii) Director General, NEC Secretariat : Member
- iv) Director General, DGM, MoEA : Member
- v) Director, Department of Local Governance, MOHCA
 (to represent Local Governments.) : Member
- vi) Director General, Department of Roads, MWHS : Member
- vii) Managing Director, NRDCL : Member

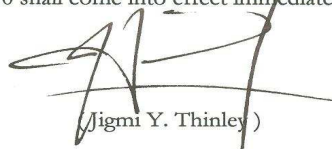
The Committee shall undertake the following functions:

- i) Institute means to fast-track clearances and award of stone quarry leases to both Government and private agencies. The Committee shall in particular chalk out strategies to fast-track the obtaining of clearances from Local Governments. It should also consider establishing a one-stop-shop for such clearances/approval.
- ii) Identify stone quarry sites in various parts of the country, provide all clearances required (including completion of all formalities), and handover the same to the NRDCL for operation.
- iii) While the operation of larger quarries is to be entrusted to NRDCL/Construction Development Corporation Ltd (CDCL), the operation of other quarries may be given to private operators preferably to those that ensure local community ownership.

The Committee is directed to complete the above tasks by July 2010.

The Ministry of Finance is directed to convey this decision to DHI which, in turn, shall do the needful for the NRDCL to establish stone quarries and crushing units all over the country.

This Executive Order issued on 10th May 2010 shall come into effect immediately.


 (Jigmi Y. Thinley)

Copy for necessary action to :

- 1) Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Thimphu

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སློབ་ཆེན། Prime Minister



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- 2) Secretary, Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs, Tashichhodzong
- 3) Secretary, Ministry of Works & Human Settlement, Thimphu
- 4) Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, Thimphu
- 5) Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Tashichhodzong
- 6) Director General, National Environment Commission, Thimphu
- 7) Chief Executive Officer, Druk Holding & Investments, Thimphu

Copy for kind information to:

1. Hon'ble Minister, All Ministries, Thimphu
2. Secretary to His Majesty the King, Royal Secretariat, Tashichhodzong
3. Secretary, All other Ministries, Thimphu
4. Secretary, GNH Commission, Tashichhodzong
5. Dzongdag, All 20 Dzongkhag Administrations [with the instruction to provide copies to Dzongkhag Tshogdu members]
6. PS to Hon'ble PM, Gyalyong Tshogkhag