

03 Jan 2007
Office of the Special Project Facilitator
Asian Development Bank,
6 ADB Avenue, 1550 Mandaluyong City,
Metro Manila, Philippines,
Tel: (+632) 632-4825
Fax: (+632) 636-2490
Email: spf@adb.org

Dear Special Project Facilitator,

We, residents of Barhaghare and members of Barhaghare Locality Development Institution, live in Bharatpur Municipality - 4, Narayani Zone, Nepal.

- 1) We would like to inform the project advisor that Urban and Environmental Improvement Project (UEIP) funded by the Asian Development Bank announced to lay down a Sewerage System (Sanitation and Waste Water Management Sub Project) for Ward numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Bharatpur Municipality. However, its waste water treatment site has been fixed at B. P. Shanti Nagarban of Ward number 4. As the project would have adverse impact on human health of Barhaghare residents and environment of the locality, we request you to stop this project immediately.
- 2) The project is specified for Ward numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Bharatpur Municipality. However, the site of waste water treatment centre is located only in Ward number 4.
- 3) We request you not to implement the project at the existing site. We request the ADB not to invest on the project at the present site. We would like to inform you that local residents are ready to take any step they deem appropriate, if this request goes unheeded. Given the adverse impact of the project to the locality, we request you to either relocate the treatment site to some other place or stop investment.
- 4) We have repeatedly contacted and drawn attention of the ADB representatives and the Municipality Office to make alternative arrangement for the project or scrap it otherwise.
- 5) We do not think it is necessary to keep names of people lodging complaint against the project secret.
- 6) Our address for correspondence is:

Barhaghare Locality Development Institution,
Chairman: Prajapati Sapkota .
Tel: 056-526613
Cell: 9855057478
Fax: 056-522245

The Executive Director,
Office of the Asian Development Bank,
Kathmandu.

Subject: Regarding Information

Sir,

On the aforementioned subject, it has been learnt that of the various projects the ADB is about to extend financial assistance in Bharatpur Municipality, Sewerage System (Sanitation and Waste Water Management Sub-Project) specified for Ward numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Bharatpur Municipality would have a waste water treatment site at the beautiful tourist spot of Nagar ban (urban forest) of Bharatpur Municipality - 4. As the site is mere 50 meters away from the Maternity hospital currently under construction and a picnic spot at Shanti Nagarban, and 200 meters away from a dense human settlement, the project is assessed to affect human health adversely. It is realized that the project would have a serious adverse impact on human health and surrounding environment instead of generating sound returns in future. We would also like to inform you the project would lead thousands of trees and vegetation of the forest conserved by the people to die out and displace wild animals inhabiting there, thereby adversely affecting the environment as well.

We would also like to inform you that people have repeatedly raised objections to the project and condemned it in meetings held between civil society, municipality officials and local residents. Likewise, we would like to bring in your notice that the concerned locality development institution on October 18, 2006 organized a wider consultation meeting of the local people on the project, in which the participants expressed serious disapproval over the project site and took a decision to oppose the project. A copy of the decision of the institution, which has already been submitted to Bharatpur Municipality Urban and Environmental Development Project Office, Bharatpur, is enclosed herewith as well. As a bid invitation notice was also published in Himalaya Times newspaper on December 8, 2006 in the face of wider protests, we would like to request you to annul that bid call and not to finance the project as well. Otherwise local people are ready to take extreme steps to protest against the project. Thanking you for your cooperation.

Applicants

NOTE: A list with 575 names (with signatures) objecting to the construction of the sewage treatment plant was attached to these letters. List is available upon request.