Minutes of the public hearing conducted on 20.01.2020 under the Chairmanship of the District Collector, Malappuram at the Collectorate Conference Hall regarding the proposed quarry expansion of M/s. Kilinakkode Rock products Pvt.Ltd., under Resurvey numbers 24/3pt, 25/2, 27/1, 28/2, 28/3, in Oorakam Village, Thirurangadi Taluk of the Malappuram District.

The project proponent of M/s. Kilinakkode Rocks products Pvt.Ltd., Malappuram District had submitted an application on 09.12.2019 to the Kerala State Pollution Control Board Head Office, Thiruvananthapuram, requesting to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of obtaining Environmental clearance in connection with the proposed expansion of their granite building stone quarry under resurvey numbers 24/3pt, 25/2, 27/1, 28/2, 28/3 in Oorakam Grama Panchayath Thirurangadi Taluk, Malappuram district. As per the Office Memorandum dated 12.12.2018 of the MoEF & CC, the mineral mining projects in extent of more than 5 hectares were included in B1 category projects and hence public hearing is necessary for these projects for obtaining environmental clearance.

The matter was discussed with the Hon’ble District Collector and it was decided to conduct the public hearing on 20.01.2020 and notices were published on 12.12.2019 one month prior to the public hearing in regional and national dailies. To inform the public of the project and the public hearing (venue, date, time etc) and to invite their suggestions, views, comments and objections.

The notices were published in the below mentioned popular regional and national dailies
1. MalayalaManorama
2. Mathrubhumi
3. Indian Express

The draft EIA report and mining plan along with the executive summaries in English and Malayalam were made available for reference for the public at the following offices as well as on the website of Kerala State Pollution Control Board from the date of advertisement itself.

1. District Collectorate, Malappuram
2. District Industries Centre, Malappuram
3. District Panchayath Office, Malappuram
4. Oorakam Grama Panchayath, Malappuram
5. Kerala State Pollution Control Board, District Office, Malappuram
6. Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Kozhikode
7. Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Thiruvananthapuram
8. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, KSRTC Bus Terminal complex, 4th floor, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram - 695001
9. Directorate of Environment & Climate Change, KSRTC Bus terminal complex, 4th floor, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram - 695001
10. Directorate of Science & Technology, Sasthra Bhavan, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram

The announcement and details of the public hearing was published in the official website of Kerala State Pollution Control Board (www.keralapcb.nic.in) in English and Malayalam. Information regarding public hearing was again given in major local dailies on 19.01.2020.

The public hearing commenced at 11.15am on the scheduled date of 20.01.2020 at the Collectorate conference hall Malappuram and was presided by the honorable District Collector, Sri. Jafer Malik, IAS. The following officials representing the Kerala State Pollution Control Board were also present in the hearing.

1) Smt. M.S. Sheeba, Chief Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Kozhikode.
2) Smt. Sauma Hameed, Environmental Engineer, District Office, Malappuram.
3) Smt. Soumya, Assistant Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Kozhikode.
4) Sri. Varun Narayanan, Assistant Environmental Engineer, District Office, Malappuram.


Smt. Sheeba M.S the Chief Environmental Engineer, Regional Office Kozhikode, Kerala State Pollution Control Board welcomed everyone to the hearing. In the welcome address the necessity and preliminary arrangements made before the hearing were also explained. 149 public people attended the hearing and the attendance list is given as Annexure (A).

The District Collector Sri. Jafer Malik, IAS addressed the gathering and explained to them that this public hearing is a mandatory procedure and informed the public that after the presentation of the project proposal by
the consultant agency, the public will be given chance and each and every one of them can share their anxieties, grievances and concerns regarding the project. He requested them to take care not to repeat same complaints once it is recorded. Then he directed the representatives of the project to present relevant details of the project to the public.

Sri M. K. Ameer had given a brief initiative talk regarding the project and he then invited his project consultant to do the presentation for the public.

Environmental consultant Sri. P. Z. Thomas did a detailed presentation on the general aspects of the project, description of the environment of the project area, meteorological parameters like temperature, rainfall, wind direction, air environment, noise environment, land environment, water environment, ecological environment and socio-economic environment of the area. A budget has been prepared for implementing a monitoring system for monitoring the various environmental factors in compliance with the norms and conditions of the Central Pollution Control Board. Apart from this, the budget will be allocated for monitoring of health of the workers, safety ensuring system will be designed for disaster management and an amount of 14.5 Lakhs is allotted for corporate environmental responsibility activities. The consultant concluded his presentation after explaining other possible project benefits like improvement in physical infrastructure, social infrastructure, increase in employment potential etc., which can be expected from the proposed project.

Following this the District Collector requested the public to share their complaints, concerns and grievances about the proposed quarrying project. The below mentioned people spoke for and against the project.

1) Anas, Kannamangal Panchayath (Jilla secretary, All India Forward Block Malappuram)

He requested the Collector that in a public discussion like this regarding a mining project from an area of more than five hectares for a period of five years, a time limit shall not be put. The Oorakam mala in which the quarry is proposed is one of the highest and densely populated mountain in the Western Ghats. There are four Municipalities around the location. It was presented here that the distance from the proposed quarrying site to the nearest residence is 178 meters. But the impact of a land slide will not be contained with in this distance. It is given in the study report of a Single Commission (Sindhu Commission) appointed directly by the Pollution Control Board that there are many valuable species of plants in this area. If the concerned officials had
inspected the site at least once the need for this public hearing would not have arisen. One of the most naturally gifted stream known by the name “Naduvilthodu” which flows through the Oorakam Panchayath before emptying in to the Kadalundriver has completely disappeared due to working of many quarries surrounding the area. The water reservoirs which are built after destroying the natural streams of the area are been used for water consumption of the quarries alone. They are not being beneficial for the public in any way. The presentation is not even mentioning anything about the Sri Sankaranarayana Swami Jain Temple which was considered for enlisting in the heritage places list of UNESCO. This historically important heritage is to be safe guarded and well kept. A request regarding a whole day inspection by the Pollution Control Board Officials at the site on whether the heavy duty vehicles coming to and from the quarrying site are complying with the prescribed conditions of Board for transportation of materials should be considered. Whether a study report of private agency is valid for the consideration of issuing Environmental Clearance. There is an LP and a UP School within 200 meters of the proposed area were children of age ranging from three to fourteen are studying. The limit of permissible noise level mentioned in the presentation are for adults and not applicable for children. Children are getting infected with respiratory ailments due to the functioning of the quarries. Also the cracks forming on the surrounding houses should be inspected. The time (6.30-9.30am) mentioned by the project consultant will affect the children going for religious studies during early morning. Do the natural resources of the place to be destructed for benefiting mere revenue increase of the Government. The officials are not conducting any inspections in the area. It can be well seen that the quarry mafia is flourishing in the area challenging all Government norms and regulations. The officials has to inspect whether sprinklers are functioning in the existing quarry. The people are suffering extremely in the months of April and May. Malayala Manorama daily had published a news report by the title “Kan niraye kandolu, ini kanendi varilla” describing the hazards faced by the area. Among the existing functioning quarries only hundred are authorized. A report has been submitted to the District Collector regarding functioning of about 750 numbers of illegal quarries. A video clip has been posted to the collector’s official face book page.

The Collector intervened and requested to convey matters strictly regarding the proposed quarry project. But then the majority of public supported
Mr. Anas and said that he is speaking for all the people and conveying the concerns of the common public.

As the proposed quarrying activity will adversely affect the herbal diversity and medicinal plants as well as heritage of the land the expansion of the quarry should not be allowed, Mr. Anas concluded.

2) Sairabanu (Resident)

She is a resident near the quarry and is heavily suffering from difficulties due to functioning of the existing quarry. During rainy season the run off from the quarry and its constructed reservoir flows in two streams flooding her house. The temperature of the area has increased such that air condition is required in every single house of the location. There is no doubt that the area around the temple at the top of the mountain will become a plateau like land in near future. Even soap is not getting lathered in the waters in the surrounding area. It is said that an environmental study has been done, but being a near-by resident no one has approached her for this purpose. In the presentation by the consultant it is said that green trees will be planted to protect the environment. But she pointed out that no space is there for planting such a green belt in the area. Hence permission for expansion shall not be given.

3. Gireesh, (N.H.Colony, Nedivirippu, SC Agricultural Coordination Committee President)

There are two crushers by the name Hitech, and Blue Stone, working near-by his area. He says that no officials from Pollution Control Board has inspected the area or enquired the opinion of people there. There are lot of illegal quarries working in the place. A Scientific study has to be done regarding the streams of the area. Due to the quarrying activities in the mountain, the animals such as monkeys are leaving their habitat and is coming down to the residents which is causing severe nuisance to the people. Cultivation has been destroyed due to this. He is against the expansion of the project.

4. Sindhu (Resident)

She is residing near the quarry. There are severe cracks to her houses, roofing tiles has been damaged in several places, nuisance from the monkeys is severe and there is a yellow colour in the well water. She is not in support.

5. Sarojini (Resident)

Being a nearby resident, the children in her house are suddenly awaken from their sleep hearing the loud blasting sound and they are not even able to walk frequently along the road due to the heavy vehicles travelling to and from
the quarry. The nuisance from monkeys is severe, hence expansion permission to the quarry shall not be given.

6. Cheeru (Resident)

She is a resident at the valley of the mountain where the quarry is located. She complained that there are cracks formed on nearby houses, and nuisance from monkeys. If permission for the expansion is given, then it will be very difficult for the living of common people there.

7. Sumathi (Resident)

She is residing near the quarry at its down side. She reported that noise from the blasting is causing hindrance to sleep of children which is affecting their health and growth. The nuisance from monkeys is severe such that fruit trees like jackfruit trees, mango trees, plantations etc., are destroyed. Even coconut trees are also being destroyed by these monkeys. Permission shall not be given for the expansion of the quarry.

8. Manikandan

His house is at 300 meters away from the quarry. He had understood the details regarding the quarry from the presentation. He said that what others were telling about the nuisance from monkeys is true, but these are not caused due to the quarrying activities and is mainly because of the specialty of the area. He has been residing in the area for 30 years and there is a quarry in the area which is used for rainwater harvesting and its serves as a source of drinking water for the area. There is no transportation to and from the quarry during school time and the materials in the vehicle are covered with tarpaulin during transportation. Road tax has been remitted for these vehicles and they are following the rules of the road. The mountain belongs to the Western Ghats range, but the protesters are interested only in the particular location of the mountain. Licences are being issued by the Mining and Geology Department, or Pollution Control Board officials only after conducting proper site enquiry. Facts regarding possibilities of landslides are to be given by experts from approved agencies after site study and not by the local residents. There are no landslides observed in the Kilinakode Mountains. He also claimed that chances of landslide or a flood is less as this is a high altitude area. The blasting is done only after 5.00 in the evening and only after giving a warning siren.

9. Chandran Mangalath (Resident)

He is a resident near the quarry. The statement made by the project consultant that there are no birds and animals in the area is not correct. The wild animals are coming down to the residential area as they have lost their
living habitat in the Mountain. What is said especially by the ladies regarding their nuisance is true. At present the runoff from the quarry is flowing along the natural stream. Elderly people, children and asthma patients are residing in the area. He enquired about the facility provide for dust suppression in the existing quarry. He informed that the Panchayath authorities had shifted the residents of the location to safe places during the 2019 flood and he shared his anxiety regarding what is going to happen in 2020. He requested the officials to stay back in the place for a week and to assess the situation. The future of the coming generation should also be safe guarded and considered and they should be provided with a healthy living place.

10. Krishnadas (Resident)

The quarrying activities are affecting the residents in ward 7 & 8 of Oorakam panchayath. Is there a need of quarry which endangers the life of people? It is true that building raw materials are essential, but what is more precious is the life and living of the people. This quarry is a vertically slanting one. Who has submitted the report that there are no wild animals living within 14 kilometres of the quarry?. Monkeys are causing great disturbance to the households and development of a place should not be done at the cost of destruction of the environment.

11. Chandu, Mangalath (Resident)

He being a resident near the Oorakam mountain he is often required to shift from his house during monsoon season and the life of people in the area are often in danger. It is a fact that during last flood 2019 the respected District Collector has ordered the people of the area to evacuate their houses and go to safe refuges. Permission for the quarry shall not be given, he pleaded.

12. Sainudheen

Residing at the base of the mountain. In the presentation the slope of the mountain was said to be in between 24 - 27°, but he enquired what is the actual slope of the mountain. During monsoon the reservoirs built in the quarries are opened up flooding the down stream areas. ‘Edattuchola’ whose starting point is where the quarry is functioning right now is all dried up and is filled with waste. Ayodhya Temple, Noorul Islam Madrassa, Masjidul Badr all these are located at the base of this mountain are no where mentioned in the presentation.

13. Musthafa (Oorakam mala Samrakshana Samithi Secretary)

He requested for permission to read aloud the petition submitted in the Pollution Control Board Office and he read the complaint. The complaint is
given as item number 2 under AnnexureB. He requested that the quarry site has to be inspected by the officials and take a just decision.

14. Faisal (Resident)
   Living 300 meters away from the quarry. He reported that there is no water scarcity in the area and retaining walls are been built to prevent water seeping to the valleys and the people are on fear whether this wall will collide and come down, during any mishap.

15. Musthafa, Pullanchira (Resident)
   His house is near the quarry. He reported that children of the area are living in great fear in their houses. They are not able to study or play properly. The water scarcity is severe and the drinking water is polluted. There is severe nuisance from the monkeys. He alleged that those who are speaking here in favour of the quarry are doing so in complete negligence of the actual situation.

16. Ramachandran
   He has been the vice president of Temple trust for the period 2010-2015. There was two to three water sources around the temple and about 2000 monkeys were residing in the mountain top around the temple. Now all have vanished. The water sources have dried up and monkeys eloped from their habitat to down the valley, where people are residing. He reported that the situation is such severe that now water is being purchased at a cost of Rs.2000 for temple use.

17. Chavichan (Resident)
   He requested the District Collector to come in person for an inspection at his house to assess the reality of the situation.

18. Unnikrishnan
   He is residing for about 25 years at the valley of this mountain. He said that long ago the wells were splendid with plenty of water, but now they have dried of and a little water is left for use and it is having an yellow colour. He said that, it is informed here during presentation that retaining walls will be built as safety measure. But there are no such walls built for the existing quarry and he fears that the mountain will crumble and slip off during the next monsoon season.

19. Muhammed Ashraf
   He is residing for the past 13 years near the quarry. During the severe water scarcity the quarry owners had supplied water according to their needs. Also help had been rendered for the poor people along the quarry area, for necessary medical services.
20. **Sujitha**
Living in the valley of the quarry and suffering heavily due to the working of the quarry. She alleged that those who are speaking in favour of the quarry owners are not residing near by the quarry, but she is living so near. She said life cannot be prolonged much further drinking this yellow coloured polluted water. Further more allergic problems also are there. If things go like this further this land will face a severe disaster. She concluded.

21. **Sairabanu (The Second complainant)**
She spoke again telling that this was her only chance to tell her grievances in front of the District Collector. She alleged that those who are speaking in favour of the quarry are benefited by the cash monthly by the quarry owners and she is not in to any of this. But the quarry is being expanded in the direction of the residences and those who are favouring the expansion are nowhere near it.

22. **Manikandan (The Eighth complainant)**
He replied to the allegations of Saira banu, the above mentioned speaker. He said it is true that the quarry owners are rendering all type of help to the neighbouring people, and if the same is being looked in to with a doubtful eye let it be so. Also he reported that the quarry owners always rendered their help to patients who are laid down with stroke or like, and also monitory help for marriage purposes of people from poor financial back ground near the quarry.

23. **Nirmala**
She lives very near to the quarry and her 96 year old parents are living with her. She claimed that the blasting sound can even be heard by her feeble hearing parents. She questioned where she can go with her old age parents while the honourable District Collector gives orders to evacuate house and go to safer place during flood. She complained that her mother is living in fear of death due to the expected disasters from quarrying activity and the fear has seriously affected the mental health of her mother and she is at the verge of becoming a mentally depressed patient. She complained that all the blastings are heavy and children of the area are also living in fear of life. Once an accident had happened to her father in law by hitting stone from the quarry on blasting and nobody came to enquire about the same.

24. **Balan**
He supported the proposed project.
25. Muhammad Kutty, Manager, M.H.UPS, Kilinakode

He being manager of an aided upper primary school, reported that he is also speaking for the students of his school. He reported that there is not any kind of dust pollution due to working of the existing quarry for the school or children of the school and not any nuisance due to the quarrying activities. He also informed that drinking water distribution are being done by the quarry owners during draught.

26. Chandu

He enquired with the District Collector whether all people can attend such a public hearing or can't it be restricted to only those people who are getting affected by the proposed project.

To this Collector responded that anyone can attend the hearing and arrangements had been made to give wide publicity to the hearing. As there were no more complaints raised again and remarks of the public came to an end, the project proponent was given an opportunity to reply to the queries

Reply by the project consultant

He summoned his reply in the below points. It is not been reported that there are no wild animals in the project area, but that there are no wild life sanctuaries or national parks situated within 15 km circle from the project area. It has been described on more than hundred pages in the report of the various herbal species, medicinal plants, and wild animals of the region. He informed that the study has been conducted by an approved agency of the Central environment ministry. The quarrying will be carried out in benches, and only bench type quarrying will be permitted by the Department of Mining &Geology. So there are no chances for land slip. More over the quarrying is not proposed to be carried out under the red zone which are demarcated by the State Disaster Management Authority. The area does not falls under the red zone. Also he informed that the blasting activity are not used to be conducted during madrasa timings, ie early morning (6.30to 9.30am).

The Public intervened the reply session and said that they want to reply the consultant. Then the District Collector made it clear that the mandatory procedures are to be completed and as the hearing is over, those who do not want to hear reply of the proponent may leave the place.
As directed by the Collector, the District Environmental Engineer Sauma Hameed thanked everyone who attended the public hearing.

All the documents, complaints, audio/video CD so obtained during the public hearing are given as Annexure(B). Detailed reply by the project proponent to the queries and concerns raised by the public are given as Annexure(C).

The public hearing meeting dispersed at 1.40pm.

Malappuram
23.01.2020

Sri. Jafe Malik. IAS
District Collector, Malappuram.