



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
Regional Office No. VIII  
DENR Compound, Jones St., Tacloban City, Philippines



28 January 2022

**HON. EUFEMIO S. OLIVA**  
Municipal Mayor  
Municipality of Gandara  
Province of Samar

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU  
RELEASED BY: *[Signature]*  
DATE: 3/03/2022  
TIME: 8:51am

Attention: **The Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer**  
Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office  
Municipality of Gandara, Samar

Dear Hon. Oliva:

Environmental Greetings!

This Office is writing in response to a complaint alleging improper management of rice mill waste owned by certain barangay officials and direct disposal of the same into the Gandara River.

Please be advised that an investigation was previously conducted on the same complaint, endorsing the matter in issue upon the local government of Gandara, Samar in accordance with the **DAO 1992-30<sup>1</sup>**, which devolved environmental management functions such as the implementation of solid waste disposal and other environmental management systems to the Local Government Unit concerned.

In this regard, the DENR Action Center endorsed a follow-up complaint to this Office, alleging that the problem persists. An investigation into the matter in issue was also conducted, discovering that the concern had not been addressed despite the directive to provide various preventive measures and instructions to cease disposing of rice mill waste directly into the Gandara River. The investigation team then orders the proponent to perform (1) regular cleaning and maintenance, as well as (2) the installation of fences and structures for the proper storage of rice mill waste to avoid the disposal and contamination of rice mill waste into bodies of water. Imposing a directive requiring immediate compliance from the proponent within the timeframe specified, failure of the proponent to comply with such required undertaking shall be strictly dealt with by law.

Given that the subject area is within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Gandara, Samar, this Office would like to respectfully request that your office implement the recommendations, as well as any other measures necessary to prevent the recurrence of similar complaints and to submit a report detailing your actions in response to the aforementioned complaint.

Thank you very much as this Office anticipates your positive action on the matter. Best regards.

Respectfully,

*[Signature]*  
**ENGR. REYNALDO B. BARRA**  
OIC- Regional Director

Copy furnished:

**HON. NECIFURO L. TARRAYO**  
Punong Barangay  
Brgy. San Pelayo, Gandara  
Province of Samar

<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for the Transfer and Implementation of DENR Functions Devolved to the LGUs