To:

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8th July 2019

Reg.: Complaint against M/s Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., a beneficiary of a loan from European Investment Bank, for violating loan terms, and also applicable law, policy, international standards, and judicial directives.

Ref.: Complaint lodged on 7th June 2019 by undersigned Mr. Ebenezer Premkumar on the above subject matter.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Apropos the aforesaid complaint, the undersigned place on record their gratitude to you for organising the hour long teleconference held on 2nd July 2019. As discussed in the teleconference, this detailed statement is in support of the aforesaid complaint and the facts and concerns discussed during the teleconference.

As a matter of record, we wish to state that Mr. Leo F. Saldanha, Coordinator/Trustee, Environment Support Group, was not originally a complainant in the complaint cited above. However, at the invitation of the original complainant Mr. Premkumar, and with the consent of you all, he participated in the aforesaid teleconference, and as discussed joined issue in support of the complainant by also signing this statement.

On the basis of these submissions, we state as follows:

A. Land Use Planning Violations, and employment of secrecy in decision making:

1. At the outset, we wish to state that the approach of M/s Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), in as far as implementation of Phase II of Bangalore Metro project is concerned, is in gross violation of various applicable laws, in particular the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961 (KTPC Act). We wish to state that strict

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compliance with various provisions of this law has been specifically directed by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in W.P. 13241/2009 (Environment Support Group and anr. Vs. BMRCL and others). The seriousness the Hon'ble Court has attached to such legal compliance is evident in the fact that it warned individual officers of BMRCL and other such infrastructure development agencies that appropriate judicial action would be initiated against them for failure to conform with the law and the judicial directive to do so. A copy of the aforesaid order is annexed at **Annexure A**.

- 2. The KTCPA is a law which mandates that prior to the development of any urban infrastructure project, it has to be subjected to a process of detailed review involving the public at large. This requires a series of public disclosures of the intent of developing the infrastructure, and inviting comments and objections through various stages of its finalisation such as development of the scheme, formulation of its budget and of causing any land use changes if necessary. In effect, the provisions of the law guarantee to the affected public the right to participate in decisions that directly or indirectly affects them, as is enshrined in the Principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, which is part of Indian law and jurisprudence.
- 3. BMRCL had kept the public at large in the dark through the conceptualisation, formalisation and building of the Phase I of the project, which resulted in a variety of adverse consequences that would have been avoided were transparency and accountability the praxis of the organisation. Phase I of Bangalore Metro has been marked with highly controversial efforts on the part of BMRCL to railroad public opinion. For instance, the public were stridently opposed to BMRCL's efforts to encroach a variety of public open spaces including Lalbagh and Lakshman Rao Park (in Jayanagar, South Bengaluru), and the same is captured in the critically acclaimed documentary "Our Metropolis" (accessible at: https://www.youtube.com/watch? $v=D8EEAyPV6_0&t=15s$). The opposition was also to the manner in which the alignments of the Phase I were being finalised, secretively, and without listening to public opinion. As a result a variety of sound technical inputs were disregarded, and thus the utility of Phase I has not been optimal, in addition to being completed after massive delays and cost over-runs: when completed Phase I cost over three times the initial budget of Rs. 5,000 crores, and also caused massive dirsuptions to densely populated Bangalore.
- 4. As a consequence of this in-transparent approach, Phase I of the Bangalore Metro has been riddled with a variety of operational problems. In recent years this has involved very serious failures. An illustration of some key ones are: theft of 450 metres of grounding wire that went unnoticed for weeks during May-June 2019, thus exposing tens of thousands of commuters to high risk of electrocution, and worse; almost all stations of the Phase I of the Metro cause traffic congestion at the street level; most stations are not accessible to differently abled and senior citizens; a child died due to a poorly designed elevator; several sections of the track are prone to flooding; and very recently there was a serious power outage in the main intersection of the Metro (at Kempegowda terminus), which resulted in tens of thousands of commuters being put to

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risk, including by a black out in several stretches of the underground sections of the

- 5. For mega projects such as Bangalore Metro, it is essential that the developer BMRCL must conform with applicable laws, and safety and risk assessment standards, as they exist to anticipate and avoid several systemic risks, and limit damage to person and property. From the manner in which the Phase I of the Metro was built and is functioning, there is every reason for alarm. This when tens of thousands of commuters have to depend on this system for their daily commuting needs.
- 6. We submit that such problems as are being encountered regularly in Phase I ought to have informed BMRCL of the need for fundamentally transforming its work approach when implementing Phase II, particularly in ensuring that it would strictly conform with the applicable norms and standards of planning and design and involve public in decision making, as is necessary per KTCP Act, and as directed by the Court. Instead, BMRCL has chosen to implement its Phase II work in the same highly problematic and high risk manner as it worked during Phase I, which is in gross and egregious violation of the aforesaid directive of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka.

B. 'Temporary' 'Acquisition' of All Saints Church illegal:

- 7. The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) issued a Notification No. KIADB/LAQ/METRO/R6/196/2017-18, dated 29th May 2017, under Section 28(1) of the KIADB Act, listing a series of properties required for Bangalore Metro Phase II. In this Notification, the All Saints Church property claimed as required permanently for Vellara Station is listed at Rows 61-64. A copy of this Notification is annexed at Annexure B.
- 8. Thereafter, BMRCL by way of a letter No. BMRCL/Ph-2/R-6/2018-19/3526, dated 13th July 2018, addressed to Secretary, Karnataka Central Diocese, CSI, demanded an additional 4582.97 square metres of All Saints Church claiming this was 'Temporary Land Acquisition'. A copy of this letter is annexed at **Annexure C**. The Church has refused to accommodate this request, as is evident from the letter dated 16th July 2018 of the Presbyter-in-charge of the church, annexed at **Annexure D**.
- 9. Notwithstanding this opposition, BMRCL has continued to demand through a variety of letters, press statements, and other such communiques this questionable idea of 'temporary acquisition' of All Saints Church. We submit that the concept of 'temporary acquisition' is void ab initio as it is not supported by any Indian law.
- 10. Sec 81 of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act) provides for 'Temporary Occupation of Land' and that only when 'temporary occupation and use of any waste or arable land are needed for any public purpose', and too for a maximum period of 3 years.
- 11. In the instant case, it is not in the least clear under which law BMRCL decided to claim the church land for 'temporary acquisition'. It appears to us that this claim of 'temporary

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acquisition' is not merely a case of executive overreach, but one of blatant abuse of administrative power being employed to terrorise the general public, and also unwitting property owners and custodians, to relinquishing their properties without appreciating the dire consequences of the same. We submit that this amounts to blatant violation of Fundamental Rights of those losing property. It is also an egregious attack on public interest as such propositions are made without any basis in law.

C. Overreach of executive power:

- 12. Such a case of executive overreach is also evident from the 25th May 2019 letter of BMRCL Managing Director Mr. Ajay Seth, IAS, to Rt. Rev. Dr. P. K. Samuel, Bishop, Church of South India, Karnataka Central Diocese. In this letter Mr. Seth claims that 'stubborn non cooperative approach is affecting the jointly planned Public Consultation meeting by DFO/BBMP & BMRCL on 24.05.2019' and therefore 'BMRCL is constrained to initiate process to acquire 3797.271 sqm of land in All Saint's Church premises as per the enclosed plan on permanent basis to facilitate construction of Metro station'. A copy of this letter is annexed at Annexure E.
- 13. We wish to submit that it is not in the executive power of Mr. Seth to decide which land is to be acquired permanently, or taken for temporary occupation, as he heads BMRCL which is an implementing agency. Land use planning powers are contained in the Metropolitan Planning Committee (per Article 243ZE of the Consitution) and with the approval of the State of Karnataka per the aforesaid KIADB Act in case this law is invoked for permanent acquisition. In the event there is a need for "temporary occupation", the same can only be undertaken as per RFCTLARR Act. BMRCL, after all, is only an implementing agency, an SPV created by the Governments of Karnataka and India to implement Bangalore Metro, and cannot therefore claim the role as a Planning Authority. Despite this clear constitutional impediment, the fact that Mr. Seth has chosen to employ such an intimidating approach against the church is deeply distressing.
- 14. It appears that despite protests from the members of the congregation and also the wide public, BMRCL appears to be intent on 'temporarily acquiring' the All Saints Church, as is indicated in the minutes of the meeting of Grievance Redressal Committee of BMRCL held on 2nd July 2019, a copy of which was provided to the complainant by a 'whistleblower' deeply disturbed by such secretive transactions that compromise the interests of the congregation and the wide public. A copy of these minutes is annexed at Annexure F.
 - D. Inconsistency between land requirements as described in DPR and current acquisition:
- 15. In its Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Phase II of the Bangalore Metro prepared in September 2011, BMRCL claims at Table 13.2 that it needs 200 sq.m. of private land for permanent acquisition to build the Vellara Station and 6443.11 sq.m. of private land for 'temporary acquisition'. In the Vellara Station Plan dated 18th October 2016, annexed at Annexure G, BMRCL details the locus and extent of permanent acquisition and 'temporary acquisition'. We reproduce below the details as provided in this map:

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	Phase I	II, R6 UG: Vellara Station	being a particularly cha
	LAND ST	ATEMENT (PERMANENT)
Sn. No.	Acquisition No.	Area (m2)	Remarks
1.	VR-R6UG-P1	166.686	
2.	VR-R6UG-P2	1365.226	d and IbunD amisElf4, 81
3.	VR-R6UG-P3	1007.881	pangalore Developmen
4.	VR-R6UG-P4	1016.749	TO STATUS TO COLUMN TO THE STATE OF THE STAT
5.	VR-R6UG-P5	92.141	states of an all and an all and a
6.	VR-R6UG-P6	1209.374	ove most edited another
	TOTAL	4858.056	

us that	Phase I	I, R6 UG: Vellara Station	about anyone from the
avou6 mu	LAND ST.	ATEMENT (TEMPORARY) am a Jaid brilla a gino
Sn. No.	Acquisition No.	Area (m2)	Remarks
1.	VR-R6UG-T1	3014.64	
2.	VR-R6UG-T2	3393.06	elt hertreakou of main
3.	VR-R6UG-T3	40.34	es celli bas triemgiupe
4.	VR-R6UG-T4	1527.65	
ni adonus	TOTAL	6448.04	8, We would like to night

- 14. At the outset we submit that the Vellara Station Plan as indicated in the map does not appear to be of the same area as is indicated in the DPR. The total area of permanent and 'temporary' acquisition of land at All Saints Church per the DPR is reported to be 6643.11 sq.m. However in the map the total of the permanent and 'temporary' land acquisition is reported to be11306.091 sq.m. Moreover, the second table above relating to 'temporary acquisition' indicates at row 4 an extent of 1527.654 sq.m., which has not been included in the total mentioned therein. If this land is included in the total area of permanent and 'temporary' acquisition, then the total area that would be required, as projected in the map, would be 12,833.745 sq.m. This would mean that the difference of land between what has been projected as required in the DPR, and in the map, is as large as 6240.635 sq.m. Another disconcerting factor is that if we instead went by the aforesaid letter of Mr. Ajay Seth, the land required for Vellara Station is indicated to be a total of 7,348.945 sq.m. (i.e. Permanent: 3551.674 and 'Temporary': 3,797.271). It is thereby abundantly evident that BMRCL is absolutely not clear about what it proposes to do at Vellara junction, for it does not even know for certain what activity it proposes to undertake and where exactly.
- 15. Consequently, it is certain that the land acquisition process underway has been extremely lackadaisical and progressing without due diligence and after necessarily attending to various impacts in a densely populated city like Bengaluru, and associated Fundamental Rights tied to land. It also appears to be a case of speculative decision making wherein the effort appears to be one of monopolising the use of church

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property without any regard to its sacredness, its special place in the hearts of the members of the congregation, and in total disregard of the church and its environs being a particularly charming and much loved living heritage of Bengaluru.

E. All Saints Church as the Living Heritage of Bengaluru:

- 16. All Saints Church has been recommended to be declared as 'heritage' of Bengaluru by Bangalore Development Authority per its proposed Revised Master Plan 2031. This church is to celebrate its sesquicentennal (150th) anniversary on November 30th this year. The congregation has been excitedly preparing to celebrate this special occasion with plans to invite a variety of dignitaries. It is also proposed to invite the wide public from various faiths from across the city to participate in this divine celebration.
- 17. The Sacred Grove of the church is thickly wooded, with some trees over 200 years old. This tranquil space forms a special place in the hearts of the congregation and just about anyone from the city wishing to escape the chaos outside. It is clear to us that only a mind that is insensitive to such sacred, spiritual and special aspects of this grove could consider all of this as mere real estate to be exploited for certain developments. To put it another way, it is quite impossible to imagine how engineers of BMRCL could even consider using this Sacred Grove for so called 'temporary acquisition'. We are given to understand that this space would be temporary shed for the construction equipment and also as a space to tunnel from.
- 18. We would like to highlight that the Church has a special place in the hearts of Europe. In 1988, Rt. Rev. Robert Runcie, then Archbishop of Canterbury had visited the church and celebrated mass. Rev. Canon Leslie Nathaniel, European Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs of the Church of England also visited the Church during 2017. The present Archbishop of Canterbury Rt. Rev. Justin Welby is due to visit the church in a couple of months. It is the congregation's desire that when such dignitaries visit, they do not carry back with them memories of a church destroyed by Bangalore Metro, and that too a destruction financed by European taxpayers. Please see at Annexure H for a compilation of the importance of these visits.

F. The massacre of Trees and Biodiversity of All Saints Church proposed by BMRCL:

- 19. For the people of Bengaluru, who loathe to see a tree felled, and would do everything possible to save a tree, it is shocking that BMRCL conceived Phase II of the Bangalore Metro in the manner they have, involving the felling of hundreds of trees, particularly in the Sacred Grove of All Saints Church. We estimate that over 100 age-old and charming trees, that form a crucial biodiversity haven of an heavily built city, will be axed were the BMRCL proposals for 'temporary acquisition' to be supported.
- 20. The legal implications and consequences of such a proposal are detailed in the 24th May 2019 representation made by the undersigned Leo Saldanha before the Deputy Conservator of Forests and Tree Officer of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Bangalore's civic body), and is annexed at **Annexure J.** This submission was made as part of the proceedings of a Statutory Public Hearing held in response to an application from BMRCL seeking permission to fell over 700 trees. Apprised of the legal and

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ecological implications of the proposed felling, the Tree Officer has kept at abeyance his decision, as the Karnataka State Government is yet to constitute an Expert body to examine the impacts as directed by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in Writ Petition 17841/2018 (Dattatreya T Devare vs. State of Karnataka and ors.). A copy of a recent order in this regard is annexed at **Annexure K**. An article on this in the Times of India dated 7th July 2019, entitled 'Expert Panel not ready, BBMP sits on tree-cutting requests', is annexed at **Annexure L**.

G. Rights of Special Children under threat from Bangalore Metro:

- 21. All Saints Church campus is home to Arpana, a school of Cognitive Disable Special Children. This school has been functioning here for the past thirty years, and scores of children and families in the neighbourhood have benefitted from its existence. The proposal of BMRCL to 'temporarily acquire' All Saints Church campus would also mean destruction of this school. This could have a debilitating impact on the mental state of these children, who have very special needs including being comforted in spaces that they are accustomed to over time. At a time when real estate prices are soaring beyond the reach of public service minded institutions as Arpana, it is almost certain that this school, and all the children who benefit from it, will suffer irreparable damage. We submit that this proposal is directly opposed to the Rights of these Special Children, their Right to Education, and their Right to a Secure and Equitable Future, therefore.
- 22. All Saints Church campus also has Home for the Aged, with about twenty occupants, several of who are in their 70s. They too will be directly impacted by the proposed destruction of the All Saints Church.

H. Right to Pray, a Fundamental Right, under attack:

- 23. The Constitution of India upholds the Right to practice any religion as intricately and fundamentally linked to the Right to Life and Liberty (Article 21). In celebration of this Fundamental Right, about 700 members of the Congregation meet every Sunday to celebrate mass at All Saints Church. The capacity of the church is about 250, and so the Sacred Grove is a space where people gather to celebrate mass.
- 24. Any effort, in any manner, to restrict such sacred religious gatherings, and which in no way disturbs anyone else, constitutes an attack on the Right to Pray which, as cited above, is intricately linked to the Right to Life. For every member of the congregation, and also for the wide public, BMRCL's proposal to 'temporarily acquire' All Saints Church campus to dump its equipment and cut open the Sacred Grove for tunnelling and station operations, thus amounts to the very destruction of the church and its sacred and sylvan surroundings, and an attack on their Fundamental Right to Life.

I. Alternatives deliberately ignored:

25. All of the above destruction is comprehensively avoidable were BRMCL to comply with the directions of the aforesaid directions of Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka and subject Phase II of the Bangalore Metro to public review per the KTCP Act. Not having complied with this law, as directed, the proposals of BMRCL per the DPR, or any of their subsequent maps, amount to merely being a proposal of an applicant agency which is

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yet to receive necessary statutory sanction. Thus, Phase II of the Bangalore Metro is now being implemented wholly illegally.

- 26. A variety of alternatives to ensuring Phase II is built non-messily, and with least destruction of Bengaluru, and thus it can work optimally for the metropolis now and into the future, have been proposed. In the particular case of All Saints Church, the option of not commencing tunnelling and dumping of construction equipment has been a point of acute focus. In fact, various representations have been made by the congregation in this regard, and a sample is annexed at Annexure M (series).
- 27. Right next to the church is public military land which is not under use and covered with Eucalyptus trees, an exotic species with no local biodiversity value. The tunnelling and construction equipment could be placed in this Eucalyptus grove, if at all such a space is needed, and thus the Church can be saved certain ruination.
- 28. Further, combining the Vellara and Langford Road stations as currently proposed would save a great deal of money for the city. Besides, it would also ensure that when Phase II is operational, the commuters could benefit with time saved from one less station, and without any disadvantage overground - the two stations are proposed merely 800 metres apart now. The dropping of the Vellara Station would also benefit traffic flows at grade, as the Vellara junction is considered one of the busiest in the city, and often gets jammed. It is highly likely that with ingress and egress of hundreds into and out of the underground station provided at Vellara, massive traffic jams would most certainly result. This is already the case with almost every Phase I Metro Station today, most of which are very poorly designed. The location of a station at Vellara Junction is also opposed to the National Urban Transport Policy which mandates that public transport must assist in decongesting traffic so that the quality of air improves. Instead, the present plan will cause intense increase in traffic congestion and consequent noise and air pollution.
- 29. As stated above, the proposal to locate the station at Vellara is also opposed to the land use plan proposed by Bangalore Development Authority, for the campus of the All Saints Chuch continues to be designated as a place of worship, and proposed for being statutory declaration as an 'heritage' of the city. Thus it cannot be redesignated by an implementing agency such as BMRCL, as per its whim, into a Metro station. Such an effort would constitute a direct violation of KTCP Act, and the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in WP 13241/2009, cited above.
- 30. On 14th June 2019, Environment Support Group submitted a representation to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Mr. H. D. Kumaraswamy highlighting several of these concerns, and a copy of the same is annexed at Annexure N. These concerns have been considered and the office of the Chief Minister has forward the same for due consideration by Additional Chief Secretary (Urban Development) and appropriate action, by way of its letter No. CM/33174/REP-GEN/2019 dated 28th June 2019, and a copy of the same (in Kannada) is annexed at Annexure P.

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J. Summary:

- 31. In summary, taking into account all of the above, and such other material facts that are intricately involved with the concerns raised herein, which also speak of and to the concerns raised by a majority of the congregation of All Saints Church, and also to those raised by a large number of residents of Bengaluru who are opposed to the destruction of this living heritage, we submitted that:
 - a) European Investment Bank (EIB) must immediately suspend any loan extended to BMRCL pending adjudication of this complaint.
 - b) Documentation submitted by BMRCL in availing a loan from EIB is placed in public domain to provide the complainants and others interested to peruse the same and examine the *vires* of the claims so made by BMRCL in applying for a loan. The loan agreement and associated documentation may also be placed in public domain as a measure of transparency and accountability, as is necessary per Sec. 4 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.
 - c) A special impact assessment team of EIB must visit the All Saints Church with sufficient prior notice to appraise itself of the facts and circumstances detailed in this complaint statement. The report of this team may be placed in the public domain for aforesaid reasons.
 - d) On satisfactory verification of the above facts, EIB must make conditional that it will extend a loan to BMRCL only if it commits to implement Phase II of the Bangalore Metro in strict conformance with the laws as applicable and the directives of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, and in the process also guaranteeing the protection of All Saints Church and its Sacred Grove for posterity and as a measur of protecting the fundamental rights of the congregation.

We thank you for your cooperation and support, and request you to reach out in case you need any further information and/or clarification.

Yours truly,

Ebenezer Premkumar

All Saints Church Congregation Welfare

Association member 2 ITI Layout, Kothanur Hennur Bagalur Road Bangalore 560077

Tel: +91-9663279529 or 9513590202

Email: eben.prem@gmail.com

Leo F. Saldanha Coordinator/Trustee

Environment Support Group

1572, Ring Road Banashankari II Stage Bangalore 560070

Tel: +91-80-26713316 or 26713560

Cell: +91-9448377403

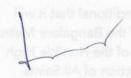
Email: leosaldanha@esgindia.org

Web: https://esgindia.org

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Annexures

A	Order of the Karnataka High Court in WP 13241/2009
В	KIADB Notification dated 29th May 2017
С	BMRCL letter addressed to Karnataka Central Diocese dated 13th July 2018
D	All Saints Church letter to KIADB dated 16th July 2018
E	BMRCL letter to the Bishop of CSI, Bangalore dated 25th May 2019
F	Minutes of BMRCL Greivance Redressal Committee held on 2 nd July 2019
G	Map of Vellara Junction Station
Н	Details regarding visit of Dignitaries to All Saints Church
J	ESG Letter dated 24th May 2019 to BBMP Tree Officer
K	Order of the Karnataka High Court in WP 17841/2018
L	Times of India news item dated 7th July 2019
M	Series of Representations made on behalf of All Saints Church Congregation
N	ESG Representation to Chief Minister of Karnataka dated 14th June 2019
P	Letter of Chief Minister's office dated 28th June 2019



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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BANGALORE
DATED THIS THE 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2010

PRESENT

THE HONBLE MR. J. S. KHEHAR, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. S. BOPANNA

<u>W.P. Nos.12954-12957/2009 (GM-RES-PIL)</u> <u>c/w</u> <u>W.P. No. 13241/2009 (GM-RES-PIL)</u>

W.P. Nos. 12954-12957/09

BETWEEN:

- 1 MAHAVEER RANKA S/O SETH KALURAM RANKA AGED ABOUT 65 YEARS 5TH MAIN, JAYANAGAR BANGALORE 560 011
- 2 SUJAY B S
 S/O B P SURESH KUMAR
 AGED ABOUT 37 YEARS
 R/O # NO. 57/41
 SARVAPTHA SIDDHI
 40TH CROSS, JAYANAGAR
 BANGALORE 560 082
 - 3 V NARAYAN SWAMY S/O VENKATASWAMY AGE ABOUT 60 YEARS N 6TH MAIN, JAYANAGAR BANGALORE - 560 082
- 4 SRI SRIRAMEGOWDA
 AGE: 62 YEARS
 S/O LINGE GOWDA

FORMER DEPUTY MAYOR BMP NO. 96, (13) 5TH CROSS AZAD NAGAR, CHAMRAJPET BANGALORE - 560 018

...PETITIONERS

(BY SRI V S GUNJAL & SRI VARDHAMAN V GUNJAL. ADVs.)

AND:

- 1 BANGALORE METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD REP. BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR K.H. ROAD, BANGALORE - 569 027
- THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISTION OFFICER (INTERNATIONAL AIR PORT) KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD KHENY BUILDING, 1ST CROSS GANDEL NAGAR, BANGALORE - 560 009
- 3 THE TREE OFFICER AND ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SUB DIV.1 **BRUHAT EANGALORE MAHANAGARA PALIKE** RANI CHENNAMMA CIRCLE BENGALURU - 560 002
- DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE STATE OF KARNATAKA LALEAGH BOTANICAL GARDEN BANCALORE - 560 027 ...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI BASAVARAJ KAREDDY, PRL.G.A. FOR R1 TO 4 SRI UDAYA HOLLA, Sr. COUNSEL FOR SMT. SUMANA BALIGA M, ADV. FOR R1)

THESE WRIT PETITIONS ARE FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO QUASH ANX-A THE NOTIFICATION DATED 28.02.2004 IN SO FAR AS ELEVATED METRO RAILWAY IN

SO FAR AS KR ROAD (NEAR BMC) UPTO VANI VILAS ROAD ALONG VV ROAD UPTO LALBAGH WEST GATE AND FROM WEST GATE ALONG R V ROAD UPTO TO DEAD END OF R V ROAD BY ISSUING A WRIT OF CERTIORARI; ETC.,

W.P. No. 13241/09

BETWEEN:

- I ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT GROUP
 (TRUST REGISTERED UNDER
 INDIAN TRUST ACT)
 REP. BY Mr. ARTHUR PEREIRA TRUSTEE
 S/O LATE Mr. THOMAS PEREIRA
 1572, 100 FEET RING ROAD, 36TE CROSS
 BANASHANKARI II STAGE
 BANGALORE 560 070
- 2 Mr. LEO SALDANHA S/O S.J. SALDANHA AGED ABOUT 40 YEARS 1, PEARL CARDENS VAJARAHALLI, KANAKAPURA ROAD BANGALORE - 560 062 (APPEARING IN PERSON)
- 3 HASIRU USIRU
 REP. BY ITS COHVENOR
 Mr. VINAT SREENIVASA
 S/O Mr. K K SREENIVASA GUPTHA
 AGED 28 YEARS
 1572, 100 FEET RING ROAD, 36TH CROSS
 BANASHANKARI II STAGE
 BANGALORE 560 070 ... PETITIONERS

(BY SRI S SIDDAPPA & SRI SUNIL DUTT YADAV, ADVs.

AND:

BANGALORE METRO RAIL
CORPORATION LTD.

3RD FLOOR, BMTC COMPLEX, K.H. ROAD, SHANTHINAGAR

BANGALORE - 560 027 REP. BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR

- 2 STATE OF KARNATAKA
 REP. BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY
 VIDHANA SOUDHA
 BANGALORE 560 001
- 3 BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANACARA PALIKE N.R. SQUARE BANGALORE - 560 002 REP. BY ITS COMMISSIONER
- 4 MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 NIRMAN BHAVAN
 NEW DELHI 110 001
 REP. BY ITS SECRETARY ALSO CHARMAN
 OF THE BOARD OF RESPONDENT 1
- 5 DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA LALBAGH, BANGALORE - 560 027 REP. BY ITS DIRECTOR
- 6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR
 HORTICULTURE, LALBAGH
 GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
 BANGALORE 560 027
- 7 TREE OFFICER (BANGALORE SOUTH)
 BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANAGARA PALIKE
 2ND BLOCK, JAYANAGAR
 BANGALORE 560 041
- BANGALOE METROPOLITAN LAND
 TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
 DIRECTORATE OF URBAN
 LAND TRANSPORT
 ROOM NO. 340, VIKAS SOUDHA
 BANGALORE 560 001
 REP. BY ITS COMMISSIONER

- DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT MULTISTOREYED BUILDING Dr. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI BANGALORE - 560 001 REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
 - PAINT MERCISIO SIC COMMISSIONER OF POLICE 10 INFANTRY ROAD BANGALOE - 560 001
- 11 DEPARTMENT OF TOWN PLANNING MULTISTORIED BUILDING Dr. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI BANGALORE - 560 001 REP. BY ITS DIRECTOR
- 12 BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY T CHOWDIAH ROAD BANGALORE - 560 020 REP. BY ITS COMMISSIONER
- 13 KARNAJAKA INDUSTRIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT BOARD KHENY BUILDING, 1st CROSS GANDHINAGAR BANGALORE - 560 009 REP. BY ITS SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER
- 14 JOINT DIRECTOR
 PARKS AND GARDENS GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA • LALBAGH LALBAGH
 BANGALORE - 560 027 ... RESPONDENTS

(BY SPI UDAYA HOLLA, Sr. COUNSEL FOR SMT. SUMANA BALIGA M, ADV. FOR R1 SRI BASAVARAJ KAREDDY, PRL.G.A. FOR R2-7 & 11 SRIK N PUTTEGOWDA, ADV. FOR R3 & R7 SRI KRISHNA, ADV. FOR RI SRI KALYAN BASAVARAJ, A.S.G. FOR R4 SRIB V SHANKARANARAYANA RAO, ADV. FOR R12)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 & 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, PRAYING TO QUASH THE ORDINANCE 4 OF 2008 (ANNEXED AT AMNEX -F DATED 22.11.2008 AND CONSEQUENTLY ISSUE WRIT OR ORDER TO QUASH THE GOVERNMENT ORDER DATED 25.02.2009 (ANNEXED AT ANNEX-H); ETC.,

THESE PETITIONS COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING THIS DAY, CHIEF JUSTICE MADE THE FOLLOWING:

ORDER

J.S.EHEHAR, C.J. (Oral):

Togahish Sungh

Learned counsel for the petitioners states, that without seeking any further direction on the factual controversy brought out through the instant writ petitions, the petitioners would be satisfied, if a direction is issued to the State Government, as also, the Bangalore Development Authority to ensure, that in future, in case, they desire to change the land use, as has been depicted in the master plan, the competent authority shall follow the procedural mandate depicted in Section 14-A of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act. 1961. And likewise, in case of making a town planning scheme, the State Government, as also, the Bangalore Development Authority shall comply with

the procedure contained in Sections 29, 30, 31, 32 and 34 of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961.

- 2. Mr. Basavaraj Kareddy, learned Pri. Government Advocate, who represented the State and Mr. K. Krishna, learned counsel, who on our asking accepts notice on behalf of the Bangalore Development Authority, agree, that the provisions referred to hereinabove, shall be complied with, without any deviation whatsoever.
- S. In view of the statement made to us, by the learned counsel representing the State Government and also Bangalere Development Authority, we are of the view. that the instant writ petitions having been rendered infructuous, the same are enable to be disposed of, as infructuous. Needless to mention, that in case of violation of direction issued by this Court, based on the statement made to this Court, the concerned officer/official shall be held responsible, for

Jogens Small

his having disobeyed the order passed by this Court, as also, the prescribed mandate of law.

Sd/-Chief Justice

> Sd/-JUDGE

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ha absolute owners and interested p	ersons in the So	thedule properties	s specified below s	hall file their	42	Rejeshekara, Ramaldua	MI-RS-UG-P30	Sy No. 23	62-63-36	30
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map of the area comprised therein	and the notificati					R. Srinivas and others			62-63/37/2	12
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	ira Village:	kdupodi Hobi			51	Papamena W/o Kanngiah,	MI-R6-UG-P40		62-63-17 Site	3
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Producers Union Federation Limited		20, 83/1, 88, 62,			54		MI-R8-UG-P43	Sy No. 23	Site 2/1	3
	DC-RS-UG-P2		63-159-8/1	697.434			MI-R6-UG-P44	Sy No. 23		3
	DC-R5-UG-P3	Sy No. 73	63-32-40	195,179	58	Pyarejaan and others (Anubhavadararu)	MI-R6-UG-P45	Sy No. 23		30
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) Syed Jemiluddin,	MI-R6-U3-P5	Sy No. 21	65-50-1/02	78.148	62	Cirisional Manager of Burmah Shell	VR-R6-UG-P2		76-64-1/7	138
S/o Syed Bashear and others	MI DOLLO D	6.11.5		1	63		VR-R8-UG-P3		78-64-1/2,	100
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Annexure C

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(ಸಹಭಾಗಿತ್ವದ – ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಉದ್ಯಮ) ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಕಚೇರಿ : ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಟಿ.ಸಿ. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, 3ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕೆಂಗಲ್ ಹನುಮಂತಯ್ಯ, ರಸ್ತೆ, ಶಾಂತಿನಗರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 027, ಭಾರತ

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

(A Joint Venture of Government of Karnataka & Government of India)

Regd. Office: B.M.T.C. Complex, 3rd Floor, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar,

Bangalore - 560 027. INDIA

NO: BMRCL/Ph-2/R-6/2018-19/ 3526 RPAD ;

namma

Date: 13.07.2018

The Secretary Karnataka Central Diocese CSI, Mission Compound, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,

Sub: Acquisition of land belonging to your All Saints Church,

Hosur Road, Bangalore.

Ref: Government Notification No: CI 73 SPQ 2017 Dt: 27.02.2018

Bangalore Metro Rail Coporation Ltd, has proposed acquisition of lands belonging to All Saints Church, No.1, Hosur Road, Bangalore both Permanent and Temporary basis as per notification cited under reference.

I. Permanent Land Acquisition:

SI. No.	ID No.	Extent of land Acquisition (in Sq.Mtrs)	Remarks
1.	VR- R6-UG - P1	166.56	
2.	VR- R6-UG - P2	1365.22	
3.	VR- R6-UG P3	1007.88	
4.	VR- R6-UG - P4	1012.00	
	Total	3551.66	

II. Temporary Land Acquisition:

SI. No.	ID No.	Extent of land Acquisition (in Sq.Mtrs)	Remarks
1.	VR- R6-UG - T1	3014.64	
2.	VR- R6-UG - T3	40,33	
3.	VR- R6-UG - T4	1528.00	
	Total	4582.97	

Compensation for both Permanent and Temporary Acquisition will be paid as per guidelines which are in vouge. Arrangements may be made to hand over the above lands to BMRCL for construction work at the earliest. Since this is an infrastructure project for Bangalore, we request you to co-operate in the matter.

Encl: Notification, Land Plan, Statements are enclosed for ready reference.

Yours faithfully

(Mohamood)
General Manager (LA)
Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd

Copy to: All Saints Church, No.1, Hosur Road, Bangalore.



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA, KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

#1, Hosur Road, Bengaluru - 560 025 Tel: 080 - 2551 2289 email: allsaintschurchesi@gmail.com



To,

16th July 2018.

Annexure D

The Special Acquisition Officer KIADB, Metro Railway Corporation 1st Floor, Maharishi Aravinda Bhavan Nrupathunga Road Bangalore – 560001.

Dear Sirs,

Greetings to you from All Saints' Church.

This is with regard to the temporary acquisition in the part and parcel of All Saints' Church properties for the purpose to execute the BMRCL lane. Kindly note that this will not be possible, given the reasons cited below:

Our Church has strength of around 1000+ members worshiping every Sunday. We have regular worship service every Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The garden area is used for seating purposes (as the Church cannot seat more than 300) during festivals, special services like marriages, funeral services in the Church. Further, our other Church related programs like prayer meetings, Bible classes for our children of all age groups, Youth Fellowship, Men's Fellowship and Women's Fellowship meetings take place in our Parish Hall situated in our compound regularly. Blocking of the area for Metro project will hinder free movement of our members and the vehicles and who come to take part in the Church services and functions. Also, this will seriously hamper the security of the place of worship and pose threats from anti social elements to the property as well as residents living in the Church campus.

Secondly, right at the entrance of the Church compound (to the left side) we have a special school - ARPANA, for the physically and mentally challenged children who come every day to this campus. The school presently uses the space for physical trainings and group activities and for other engagement programs.

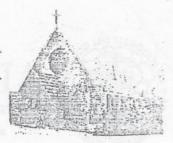
Continued/---



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA, KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

1, Hosur Road, Bengaluru - 560 025 Tel: 080 - 2551 2289 email: allsaintschurchesi@gmail.com



-2-

The children of this school are physically and mentally challenged who need to be given extra care during their trainings or while playing small games. Hence, temporary acquisition of the Church property for Metro purposes will hinder their routine activities, and is sure to cause inconvenience to their free movement leading to fatal accidents.

Thirdly, our Church compound has an Old Age Home managed by us. It is highly imperative that the inmates are provided utmost protection and safety in the compound. These inmates usually relax in the lush green garden during the day time, basking in the sun or take their evening stroll around the Church which is quite and safe to walk around. This peaceful atmosphere will be disturbed and may lead to threats to them and to their properties.

As it is, the land acquisition plan for BMRCL project from a property belonging to All Saints' Church (which is one of the heritage properties in Bangalore) has already hurt the sentiments and emotions of its congregation. This being the fact, temporary acquisition for BMRCL project will only lead to uproar among the congregation members, which is gearing up to celebrate its sesquicentennial year (150th year) November 2019.

In view of all the cited reason, we request you to drop the proposal of temporary acquisition from the part and parcel of All Saints' Church by BMRCL.

Thanking you.

Regards,

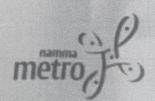
Rev. Satish Timothy Paul

Chairman

K Harinath Secretary

9he biolish The Secretary The Pherend

AJAY SETH, IAS Managing Director



Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltt

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kamataka)

3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, K.H. Road Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027, INDIA

Phone: 080-2296 9202, 2296 9203, Fax: 080-2296 9204

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Date: 25.05.2019

BMRCL/phase-2(UG)/Reach-6/2019

RT. REV. DR. P.K. SAMUEL, BISHOP, CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA. Karnataka Central Diocese, No. 20, Third Cross, CSI Compound, Bengaluru- 560 027.

Dear Sir,

Sub: Requirement of land in All Saints Church premises for construction of **Underground Metro Station-Reg**

Ref:(1) Letter no. BMRCL/phase-2(UG)/Reach-6/2019/10008 dated 12.03.3019

(2) Letter no. BMRCL/CE(UG)/General/2019/328 dated 13.04.2019

As you are aware, BMRCL had proposed for temporary acquisition of area in All Saints premises for taking up the construction of Vellara Junction Metro Under Ground Station. In this connection, detailed discussions with representatives from All Saints Church were held several times by concerned BMRCL officials. Executive Director/CIVIL-3/BMRCL has met the church officialsmany times to address the concernsof church officials. The necessity for temporary acquisition of All Saint Church land has been explained in detail to all of them. Even changes to acquisition plan was effected to facilitate easy access to people who visit the church. In spite of this, there was no tangible progress.

On 12.03,2019, a meeting was called by you to discuss the various issues involved intemporary acquisition. Executive Director/CIVIL-3, General Manager/Land and other BMRCL officials attended the meeting. It was decided in the meeting, to conduct a joint inspection of the premises to list out all the issues which needed to be addressed for handing over the church land to BMRCL. It was also agreed to nominate a committee representing the church for conducting joint site inspection with BMRCL officials and prepare an MOU. However, such nomination from CSI/Karnataka Central Diocesewas notmade. Again a meeting was held on 11.04.2019 as per request wherein several members / office bearers of All Saint Church participated. The temporary land requirement proposal was explained in detail and all the queries and questions including few on the access to the church etc., were answered to the full satisfaction of the members. The members insisted BMRCL to exclude the pavilion portion and existing entry from Col K.S. Thimmaiah Road which was agreed to by BMRCL resulting in revision of land requirement from 4480.573sqm to 3797.271 sqm.

BMRCL again requested you vide letter dated 13.04.2019 to nominate officials for joint inspection. As such nomination is yet to be made, joint inspection has not been carried out resulting in inordinate delay in commencing the Metro works.

On 21.05.2019 DFO/BBMP along with BMRCL officials were denied permission to enter into the All Saints Church and hence, DFO/BBMP could not inspect and take tree inventory in the proposed temporary acquisition area. Again on 22.05.2019, BMRCL officials are again denied permission to take tree inventory. This stubborn non cooperative approach is affecting the jointly planned Public Consultation meeting by DFO/BBMP & BMRCL on 24.05.2019.

It is to point out that an area of about 3618 sqm church land occupied by tenants like Petrol Pump, Tom's Hotel, Fatima Bakery and Daniel's Garage were notified and acquired by BMRCL. The compensation paid to Church of South India is Rs.60.01Cr. The Church of South India has benefited by the permanent acquisition and did not raise any objection.

Hence, BMRCL is constrained to initiate process to acquire 3797.271 sqm of land in All Saint's Church premises as per the enclosed land plan on permanent basis to facilitate construction of Metro station.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(AJAY SETH)
MANAGING DIRECTOR

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 02,07,2019.

- i. Director (Projects & Planning), Chairman
- ii. General Manager (LA&E), Convener
- iii. General Manager (F&A), Member
- iv. Chief Public Relation Officer, Member
- v. Chief Engineer (Reach 6), Member
- vi. Manager (Transportation), Member
- vii. Tahsildar, Member

Above committee met on 02.07.2019 at 4.00 pm in the chamber of Director (P&P) to hear the grievance of members of All Saints Church in connection with proposed acquisition of 3797 sq m. of church land on temporary basis for construction of Vellara Junction underground station in line-6. Following members as representatives of All Saints Church / CSI attended the meeting.

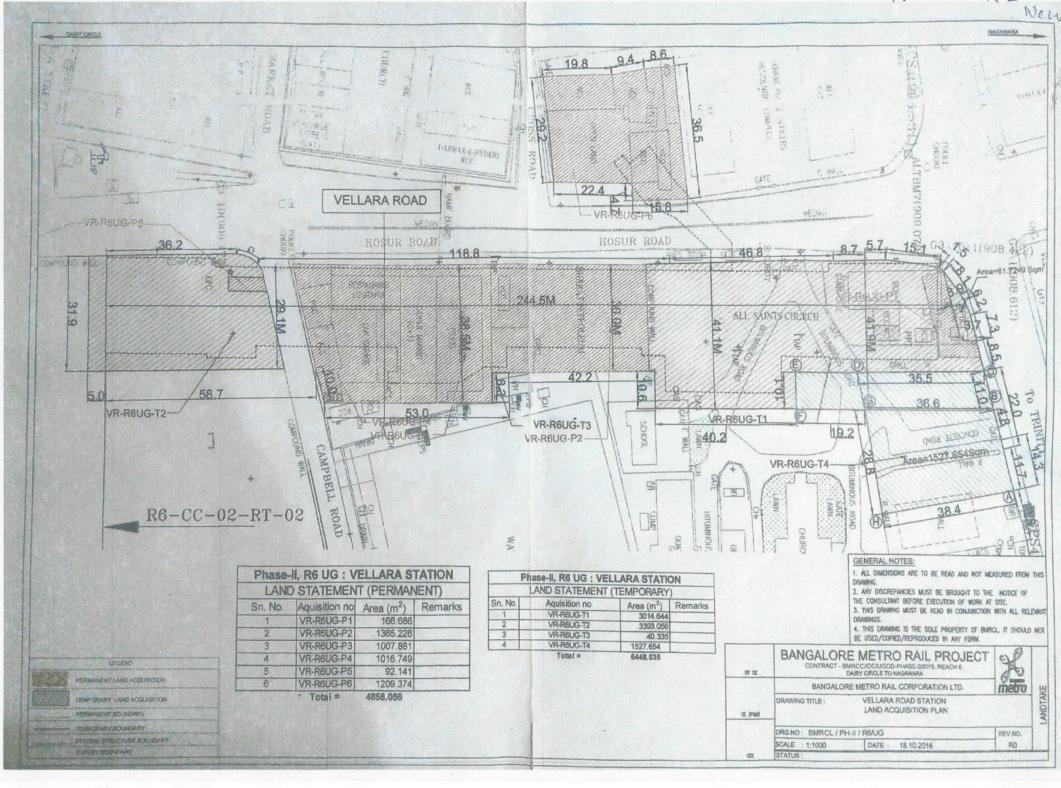
- i. Mr. K. Harinath, Secretary, All Saints Church
- ii. Mr. S. Devdas Sadhu, Property Convener, CSI
- iii. Mr. Satheesh Kumar, Technical Consultant, CSI
- iv. Mr. Paul Dhanashegaran, Secretary, CSI
- v. Mr. Franklyn James, Treasurer, CSI
- The purpose of the proposed acquisition of church land on temporary basis was explained to the Members of the Church, with the help of the drawings.
- 2 The Church Representatives confirmed that they are aware of the proposed acquisition of church land on temporary basis and they also confirmed that they had several meetings with BMRCL officials in the past.
- 3. The Chairman explained various benefits of Metro and also using church land on temporary basis to the members.
- 4 It was explained to the members that there was no progress on the nomination of members for Joint Inspection from church and BMRCL officials along with Forest Officers of BBMP were not allowed to enter the church premises for conducting tree survey.

- BMRCL was questioned that under what authority the land is being proposed for acquisition on temporary basis and entry to the premises was denied.
- Under the above circumstances, BMRCL was forced to go for permanent acqui sition
 of the church property which otherwise was proposed on temporary basis.
- 7 The church members were told that the preliminary notification for permanent acquisition has already been issued vide Gazette Notification dated 25.06.2019 and a copy was handed over to them.
- The church members explained that the publicity in media and protests are being organized by the people who are unconnected with the functioning of the church or CSI and they are not authorized. They also informed that the authorized members of CSI and the Committee Members of All Saints Church are willing to co-operate with BMRCL.
- 9. The church members confirmed that they have no objection for conducting joint inspection of the subject land. It was decided that joint inspection will be conducted on 04.07.2019 by BMRCL officials and church authorized members.
- 10. The church members told that they are in favour of temporary acquisition of the land. They however informed that they will confirm in a day or two regarding their agreement for sparing the land on temporary basis and requested BMRCL to hold back the process of permanent land acquisition till such time. Committee agreed to consider their request provided the decision is conveyed by them to BMRCL by 04.07.2019.

Director (P&P) 03 0719 Chairman 03 0719

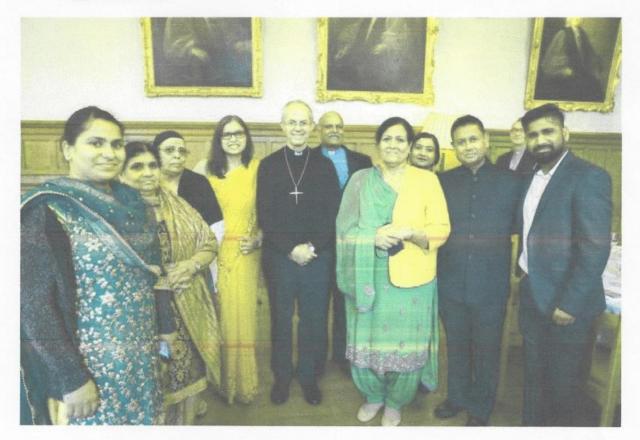
Copy to:

- 1. All Members of Committee.
- 2. Members of CSI and All Saints Church.



ANNEXURE H

 Former Arch Bishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie visited the church during 1988 during his last visit to India.



- Rev Canon Leslie Nathaniel who is serving as the European Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs
 of the Church of England, working closely with the Archbishop of Canterbury. A key member
 of Church of England, visited All saints church during 2017 and shared the word of Lord.
- The Present Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, together with Mrs Welby, has been invited by the United Churches of North and South India on a 10-day visit, from 31st August - 10th September 2019. The planned trip will see him travel from South to North India, spending time in Kottayam, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Medak, Jabalpur, Kolkata and Amritsar.

Archbishop Justin said today: "My prayer is that this visit will first and foremost provide opportunities for me to pray with local Christians; secondly, I want to listen to the stories of local people, to hear the joys and challenges they face in their daily life; and, finally, I am looking forward to visiting key places of worship and significance. India has a long and distinguished Christian history, going back as early as the first century when Saint Thomas is said to have travelled to Kerala. I am looking forward to learning from the Church in India and sharing in their worship."



Environmental

Social

Justice

Governance Initiatives

1572, 36 Cross, 100 Feet Ring Road, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore 560070. INDIA Tel: 91-80-26713559-3561 Voice/Fax: 91-80-26713316

Email: esg@esgindia.org Web: www.esgindia.org

(Under acknowledgement)

The Deputy Conservator of Forests Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Bengaluru 560002

24th May 2019

Reg.: Your notification in Indian Express dated 22nd May 2019 calling for a public hearing regarding the proposed felling of trees for Metro Phase II

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to the aforementioned advertisement and notification calling for a public hearing regarding the proposed felling of trees to accommodate the demands of the Metro Phase II work (Bannerghatta Road to Nagawara), called in accordance with Sec. 8(3) of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976 (as amended in 2015), you are kindly requested to consider the following legal prerequisites and take action in strict accordance with law and the cited directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka and Supreme Court of India.

1. In its final order dated 16th November 2010 in W.P. No. 13241/2009 (Environment Support Group and ors. Vs. BMRCL and ors.), the Principal Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka categorically and strictly directed that "in case of making a town planning scheme, the State Government, as also the Bangalore Development Authority shall comply with the procedure contained in Sections 29, 30, 31, 32 and 34 of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961." In this case the Hon'ble Court was seized of egregious violations of the aforesaid law by BMRCL, and thus found it necessary to issue a very strict warning "that in case of violation of direction issued by this Court, based on the statement made to this Court, the concerned officer/official shall be held responsible for his having disobeyed the order passed by this Court, as also, the prescribed mandate of law." To this date, BMRCL has not undertaken any task or action to comply with the aforesaid direction, which requires the agency to seek the assistance of Bangalore Development Authority in conforming strictly to the aforesaid procedure in law that requires consulting with the wide public about changes necessary from the prevailing Master Plan. Having failed to comply with this procedure, the proposed work for Phase II of the Metro is in blatant violation of the law and in contemptuous disregard of the aforesaid direction of the Hon'ble Court.

This also means and implies that the alignments as proposed for Phase II of the Metro do not have the legal sanction essential per law. Therefore, the alignment proposed is merely an outcome of conjectures on the part of BMRCL officials and has not been tested and approved as directed by the Hon'ble Court in the aforesaid direction. This would mean that the exercise of conducting a Public Hearing per the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act,

soliciting public opinion on the viability of felling hundreds of age old heritage trees of

d 12A of the Indian Income Tax Act. ESG is a Public Charitable Trust with clearance per Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and eligible for

Bengaluru, is ipso facto premature.

- 3. As per the aforesaid laws and rulings read with the obligations of the Tree Officer as defined in the Karnataka Forest Manual, you are urged to ensure that the process of decision making in this regard is without any fault, and in strict adherence of law and aforesaid judgments.
- 4. Such precaution has been insisted as essential and critical in matters of environmental decision making, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held as recently as on 29th March 2019, in Civil Appeal No. 12251/2018 (Hanuman Laxman Aroskar vs Union of India, connected with Federation of Rainbow Warriors vs. Union of India and ors.), and a relevant extract is produced here for your reference:

"The rule of law requires a regime which has effective, accountable and transparent institutions. Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making are key ingredients to the rule of law. Public access to information is, in similar terms, fundamental to the preservation of the rule of law. In a domestic context, environmental governance is founded on the rule of law emerges from the values of our Constitution. The health of the environment is key to preserving the right to life as a constitutionally recognised value under Art 21 of the Constitution. Proper structures for environmental decision making find expression in the guarantee against arbritrary action and the affirmative duty of fair treatment under Article 14 of the Constitution."

5. In addition, with particular regard to the felling of trees in Bengaluru, the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has highlighted the critical importance of ensuring no tree is felled recklessly, and certainly not without a rational and publicly accountable plan to compensate its loss, if and only if establishes through due process as absolutely necessary for an equivalent public objective. This is evident in the order dated 7th August 2014 of the Principal Bench of the Court in W.P. 7288/2011 (Suo moto vs. Government of Karnataka and ors.) wherein it was held as follows:

"We deem it necessary to direct that felling of trees would be undertaken as an exception rather than a rule, and further that the tree office and tree authority would fully satisfy themselves and certify that all other alternatives have been considered regarding the feasibility of the felling of trees. If any objections are received from the public, due consideration shall be given by assigning reasons."

"Early action may be taken on implementing a web-based system wherein all the applications for tree felling and the decisions taken thereon be made available to the public in a transparent manner."

In the instant case, the necessary material and evidence required to ascertain which tree, and how many trees also, are particularly (and potentially) required to be felled for the project is not yet before the Tree Officer. This is because the necessary plans for the Phase II of the Metro are still in the draft stage, as they have not yet been legally sanctioned as per the process of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act which has been highlighted as foundational by the Hon'ble Court in the aforesaid direction in WP 13241/2009.

2 Of 4

ESG is a Public Charitable Trust with clearance per Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and eligible for tax exemptions per Sec. 80G and 100 of the Indian Income Tax Act.

Consequently, there is no credible, rational and legal way to assess which trees are sought to be felled by BMRCL for Phase II of the Metro, and if they are necessary to be felled at all. In the absence of a publicly accessible project plan, as required by law, it is also not possible to verify if there are alternatives possible, particularly to avoid felling of trees, as is directed by the Hon'ble Court.

6. It is more than evident that the Hon'ble Court is clear that infrastructure projects should not be proposed as of higher public value than is the preservation of greenery in Bengaluru, the existence of which is intricately linked with the Right to Life and Clean Environment as has been reaffirmed once more by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the aforesaid direction. Worried that this caution is not being exercised with due seriousness by the authorities, the Principal Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has deemed it appropriate vide its interim order dated 23rd April 2019 in WP 17841/2018 (Dattatraya T Devare vs. State of Karnataka and ors.) to constitute a Committee comprising of experts in environment, science, technology and concerned fields prior to any decision being taken about felling of trees. The relevant extract of this order is:

"The respondents are directed to constitute a Committee consisting of experts from the field of Environment, Science, Technology and concerned fields.

The Expert Committee shall examine whether trees proposed to be felled could be saved by adopting any method. After exhausting all methods, if it is found that it is impossible to save any tree, **only then it shall be permissible to cut the trees**.

It is expected of the Expert Committee to give its considered opinion to save the trees."

7. As it stands, the following remains true:

- a) BMRCL and BDA have not considered it necessary, as yet, to comply with the procedure of public involvement in decision making relating to land use changes as is mandated in Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961, and reaffirmed in the judgment of the Karnataka High Court in WP 13241/2009. Consequently, the BMRCL Phase II proposal are to be considered as merely the conjecture of the implementing agencies and without any sanction of law.
- b) The explicit directions of the Hon'ble Karnataka High Court in WP 7288/2011 and WP 17841/2018, and the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in CA 12251/2018, categorically require that only a transparent and appropriate planned review of the impact of any infrastructure project on trees is to be undertaken ab intio, and only when such material is available without any contestation, then, and then alone, should there be a public and statutory review of tree felling requests. In the absence of such a proposal, the question of entertaining the application for tree felling does not arise, and if indeed under duress or any such situation a decision is taken by the Tree Officer approving the felling of trees, such an order would be void ab initio, and in any case attract action from for violation of due process in law and as contemptuous of the aforesaid directions of the Hon'ble High Court.

Taking into account all of the above, you are requested to ensure that this Public Consultation is

3 Of 4

ESG is a Public Charitable Trust with clearance per Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and eligible for tax exemptions per Sec. 89G and 12A of the Indian Income Tax Act.

postponed to a time when the appropriate material and precedent legal sanctions are available with BMRCL, first and foremost, and only after the same is placed in public domain, only then should the Tree Officer call for public comment and objections on the application for tree felling.

You are urged to take due notice of all the cited laws and court directions, and strictly conform with them.

Your truly,

Leo F. Saldanha

Coordinator/Trustee 1019

Environment Support Group

Cc.:

Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

Principal Secretary, Dept. of Forests, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka

c) Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Karnataka Forest Department

Comissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

qe) Managing Director, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India

g) Key financiers of the Bangalore Metro project, media and the wide public

High Court of Karnataka

Daily Orders of the Case Number: WP 17841/2018 for the date of order 24/06/2019

Honble Justice CHIEF JUSTICE AND H.T. NARENDRA PRASAD

24/06/2019

Order in WP 17841/2018

- (1) Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioners and the learned Principal Government Advocate for the first, second and third respondents. We have also heard the learned counsel appearing for the fourth, fifth and sixth respondents.
- (2) To say the least, this petition depicts very sorry state of affairs, when it comes to implementation of the provisions of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976 (for short the said Act of 1976). The basic object of the said Act of 1976 is to make better provisions for preservation of the trees in the State.
- (3) There is a challenge to the constitutional validity of clause (vii) of sub-section (3) of Section 8 of the said Act of 1976, which merits consideration. Prima facie, it appears to us that as per the said provision, felling of more than 50 trees for public purpose as mentioned in clause (vii) can be mechanically allowed after issuing public notice without adverting to the tests, which are laid down in clause (i) to (v) of sub-section (3) of Section 8 of the said Act of 1976. As a challenge is made to the validity of a statutory provision, issue notice to the learned Advocate General of the State of Karnataka, returnable on 22nd July 2019. On the next date, the petition will be taken up for final disposal at least as far as this prayer is concerned. If for any reason, time is sought by the respondents, the Court will consider the prayer for passing appropriate interim relief as regards the offending provision.
- (4) Our attention is invited to the mandatory duties of the Tree Authority enumerated in Section 7 of the said Act of 1976. One of the mandatory duty is preservation of all trees within its jurisdiction. Another important duty is to carry out census of the existing trees. The objections filed by the Tree Authority do not indicate that such census has been conducted. There are other duties entrusted to the Tree Authority, such as Section 10 which provides that where any tree has fallen or destroyed due to force of nature or other natural causes, the Tree Authority has to step in and ensure that the tree or trees are planted in place of the trees so fallen or destroyed.
- (5) We direct the Tree Authority to file additional objections setting out whether any steps have been taken for carrying out census in terms of clause (b) of Section 7 of the said Act of 1976. The Tree Authority will set out the instances, if any, of the actions taken in accordance with Section 10 of the said Act of 1976.
- (6) Under the order of this court dated 22nd April 2019, the respondents were directed to constitute a Committee consisting of experts from the field of Environment, Science, Technology and concerned fields. The said order directs the Expert Committee to examine whether the trees proposed to be felled could be saved by adopting any method. It is further directed that after exhausting all methods, if it is found that it is impossible to save the trees, only then it shall be permissible to cut the trees. Though this order has been passed almost two months back, the same has not been implemented.
- (7) The learned Principal Government Advocate submitted that this order may be modified and permission may be granted to the Tree Officer to exercise the powers under Section 8 of

the said Act of 1976. The said prayer can be considered only after the Tree Authority by filing additional objections satisfies the Court that the Tree Authority is functioning in terms of the provisions of the said Act of 1976 and that it is discharging its mandatory duties. Section 4 of the said Act of 1976 mandates that the Tree Authority shall meet at least once in three months. The objections filed by the Tree Authority indicate that compliance with the mandate of Section 4 of the said Act of 1976 is made only in default.

- (8) While issuing the aforesaid directions, we cannot avoid temptation of quoting the observations made by a Division Bench of the High Court Judicature at Bombay in Public Interest Litigation No.93 of 2009 dated 20th September 2013. The Division Bench has observed that the Tree Authority is not an Authority for the destruction of trees but for the preservation of the trees and enhancement of the fast depleting green cover. This observation is relevant inasmuch as according to the case made out by the petitioners, the green cover of Bengaluru has been reduced by drastic 78%. Though the learned Principal Government Advocate tried to dispute this contention, in the absence of census of trees, perhaps it may not be possible to dispute the correctness of the said contention.
- (9) Considering the object of the said Act of 1976, we hope and trust that none of the respondents will take this public interest litigation as an adversarial litigation.
- (10) This petition be listed for Preliminary Hearing on 29th July 2019.
- (11) Office to delete the name of Shri Sriranga, learned counsel from the cause list.

UNDAY TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU ULY 7, 2019

TIMES

CI

Expert panel not ready, BBMP sits on tree-cutting requests

Rohith.BR@timesgroup.com

engaluru: In the past two nonths, the BBMP has not ranted permission for cuting trees. The reason: The overnment is still sitting on prince of the high courtandated expert committee of screen such requests from tizens and organisations.

MK Cholarajappa, BBMP eputy conservator of forests, old STOI the expert panel is et to formed. "According to te high court's interim order April, a committee of exerts had to be formed to exlore the possibility of saving ees proposed to be felled. he BBMP, forest departient, Karnataka State Polluon Control Board and urban evelopment department shold come together to form the anel. I've written to the goernment and am awaiting reoonse," he added.

Sources in BBMP said the recofficer gets about 10 appliations per day on an average, seking permission to remove res. "There are also applications from government agencies and organisations for tree

CONSERVATION

- Preservation Act-1976 has laid down a set of rules for tree protection
- According to the Act, no person shall cut a tree or cause any tree to be felled in any land, whether in his/her ownership or occupancy or otherwise, except with the prior permission of the tree officer
- The application to the tree officer shall be accompanied by a site plan or survey sketch specifying the site or survey numbers, the number, kind and girth of the tree sought to be cut and reasons along with the consent of the owner or occupant
- On receipt of the application,

the tree officer may, after inspecting the tree and holding such inquiry as he/she deems necessary, either grant permission in whole or in part

Permission for tree cutting shall not be refused if the tree, is dead, diseased or windfallen, has silviculturally matured, constitutes a danger to life or property, leads to obstruction to traffic, is substantially damaged or destroyed by fire, lightning, rain or due to other natural causes

TIMES VIEW

Bengaluru's transformation from a sleepy small town to an overcrowded IT hub has had a direct impact on its green cover. The Garden City is now bursting at the seams and indiscriminate felling of trees goes on unabated. Successive governments have done little to reverse this trend. It's sad that the formation of a high court-mandated committee to study requests to cut trees is still pending. It's crucial to explore the possibility of saving trees proposed to be felled, instead of letting them die. Set up the expert panel forthwith and save whatever little is left now.

cutting in bulk to facilitate roads and other infrastructure projects," they added.

'Strict vigil needed'

Environmentalist AN Yellappa Reddy, who is also the chairman of Bangalore Environmental Trust, which is one of the petitioners in a related case before the high court, said they've already submitted some names of experts for the committee.

"The government has to finalise the members. Any tree felling proposal in the city has to to be presented before the committee. Such a strict vigil is the need of the hour as the existing set up has led to haphazard cutting of trees in the name of development. There are examples of tree officer coming under pressure from self-interest groups to allow felling, "Reddy added.

Reddy said the BBMP allowing tree cutting in the abserce of the committee may result in contempt of court.

'Doc was a workaholic'

Student uses prize

Neighbour's dogs troubling

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONGREGATION

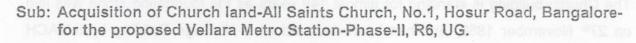
Church of South India - Karnataka Central Diocese No 1, Hosur Road, Bangalore 560 025.

March 05, 2019

To.

The Managing Director,
Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited,
III Floor, BMTC Complex,
K.H Road,
Shanthinagar,
Bangalore 560027

Sir,



We have over 600 members who actively participate in the Church worship. This Church has been in existence for almost 149 years and is under the administrative control of the Church of South India, Karnataka Central Diocese. The Church property is held by the Trust known as Church of South India Trust Association. The Congregation, for which the Church exists, has taken the initiative to secure the church property. The Karnataka Central Diocese and the Pastor in-charge have been informed of the steps being taken by the congregation including this appeal which is being submitted by us on behalf of the Congregation.

The Church originally owned lands to an extent of approximately six (6) acres. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board (BWSSB) had acquired approximately 1.75 acres out of the lands belonging to the Church for putting up a Water reservoir on the Church land abutting Campbell Road to cater to the water needs of the residents of Viveknagar, Austin Town, Neelasandra, Johnson Market, Langford Town, Richmond Town and other surrounding areas and localities. Despite the said 1.75 acres being used as an area for church activities, since there was a Public Interest involved, the Church had agreed for the acquisition of the said 1.75 acres of land by BWSSB. This has shrunk the Church land substantially. Notwithstanding acquisition of 1.75 acres of the Church land by BWSSB, the Church in order to generate revenues for supporting

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONGREGATION

Church of South India - Karnataka Central Diocese

No 1, Hosur Road, Bangalore 560 025. several of its activities, had leased certain portion of its land to various commercial establishments situated on the Hosur Roadside of the Church property. Thus, over the years, the land appurtenant to the Church building has shrunk drastically, as a result of which the Church has to compress certain of its activities. Sometimes, the Church premises, during Sunday worship and on other days when wedding and other services are being conducted, is insufficient to accommodate the congregation and any acquisition, permanent or temporary would only further the inconvenience to the congregation and the members.

The Church building is standing for almost 149 years as the foundation stone was laid on 27th November 1869, and has been declared as a Heritage Building by INTACH Office, New Delhi. Further, we are given to understand that under the RMP 2015, our Church and the property appurtenant thereto has been shown as a place of worship under the zoning regulations of RMP 2015. Further, there is a School for Special Children in the Church campus abutting the boundary wall of the Hosur Road-Richmond Road (North Western Corner of the Church property). There are approximately 60 children who are given free education irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. Further, there is an old age home catering to almost twenty five (25) Senior Citizens who do not have a home and/or immediate family.

We are given to understand that for the proposed Vellara Metro Station, the BMRCL is acquiring the Church property abutting Hosur Road (From Campbell Road to Richmond Road) admeasuring approximately 11000 sq meters partly by way of permanent acquisition and partly temporary acquisition. This would result in severe hindrance to the movement of the Senior Citizen which is essential for their health and well-being as the land surrounding the said old age home is proposed to be acquired by BMRCL. Further, we are given to understand that the entire building of School for Special Children will be demolished to accommodate a temporary dumping yard during the proposed construction of the Underground Station.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CONGREGATION

Church of South India - Karnataka Central Diocese

No 1, Hosur Road, Bangalore 560 025.

In this regard, we would like to inform that as per our information, on the opposite side of Hosur Road towards Richmond Town, the Government has quarters for Senior Police Officers and there is also a vacant Corporation land which could be used for the proposed temporary acquisition of land for the construction of the said Vellara Metro Station.

In order to explain the issue in detail, we the Congregation would request your kind self for a personal meeting with you in order to place our perspective and the concerns we have with regard to the permanent and temporary acquisition of the Church property(ies) by BMRCL. We have annexed a copy of the plan which one of our members have obtained under the RTI, for your immediate reference.

We request you to sympathetically consider our representation and give us a time convenient for the meeting.

On behalf of the Congregation of All Saints Church.

1. Mr. Ebenezer Premkumar

3. Mr.Jebin Vijai

M. Tole

2. Mr. Victor Samue

4. Mr. Vijay Balasingh

BY HAND DELIVERY

Bengaluru 24th May, 2019

The Managing Director, BMRCL, Bengaluru-560027

Dear Sir,

Re: Your Telephonic Conversation with me On 22.05.2019

At the outset I thank you for accepting the invitation to visit our church on 29th May 2019 at 4.00 p.m. to clarify issues relating to the proposed temporary acquisition of All Saints Church Land for the proposed Vellara Junction Station.

As you are aware the Congregation of All Saints Church is unhappy with this proposed temporary acquisition due to the largescale destruction of tree cover and great inconvenience it would cause to members for several years. You will also be aware that a resolution opposing the temporary acquisition was passed by the Pastorate Committee of the church on 10.04.2019. This resolution, addressed to our Bishop, was handed over by Bishop Rt. Reverend Prasanna Kumar Samuel of the Karnataka Central Diocese (KCD) to your Director Technical Mr. Haggaraddi at a meeting held by the Bishop at his office on 11.04.2019 where both church and BMRCL representatives were present. A copy of the said resolution is attached here with for your ready reference.

In this context, one of the issues that agitates church members is lack of information regarding the legal basis on which you are seeking to temporarily acquire the church land. As you may be aware the KCD, as a constituent unit of the Church of South India Trust Association (CSI-TA), is currently barred by the National Company Law Tribunal in Chennai vide its orders in CP 2/2016 from taking any policy decisions regarding its assets. A copy of the said order relating to CSI-TA is attached for your ready reference. Accordingly the KCD does not have the authority to take decisions regarding the lease of the church land to BMRCL and any such transaction could attract provisions relating to Contempt of Court.

Since temporary acquisition can be done only by mutual consent of the parties, we the members of the congregation want to know which authority in the church has authorised you to temporarily acquire our church land. We request you to kindly bring along copies of the relevant documents in this regard on 29th May and inform our members of the same.

We look forward to your forthcoming visit.

Thanking you Yours Sincerely

Ebenezer Premkumar # 2, ITI Layout, Kothanur, Bangalore-560 077 96632 79529

Eben.pre@gmail.com

ಚಂಗಳೂರು ಮೆಟ್ರೂ ರೈಲು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಾನಿಸು ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಟ.ಸಿ. ಕಾರ್ಡೈ, ಶಾತಿನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-23 2 7 MAY 2019 ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

S.No	Suggestion	Justification	Precedent/Reference	External Resources/ Support	Impact/Outcome
1.	Comply with original DPR for acquisition of 200 sqm on permanent basis and 6443 sqm on Temporary basis (which would not be under ASC compound)	Important location and reference points presented in Table 2.4, the line will be at the Right Hand Side at the Campbell Road and as it reaches Richmond Road, it is at the Left Hand Side. This will result in steering away from All Saints Church compound.	High court has come down heavily on BMRCL for violating this norm during implementation of Phase I	Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), led by Ms. Meera lyer who was responsible for stopping demolition of 80 yr old Janatha Bazar	ASC compound would not need to be touched.
2	Shifting of Station Box towards Military School (without reduction of Box Length)	Initially, the Box length at Vellara Junction was 300 Meters which was reduced by 63.48 Meters at the Military Ground. The reduction given at the Military ground which is an open ground can be given at our church which will result in No temporary acquisition at all.	In Delhi Ashram Station's length was reduced by about 100 Meters. In Mumbai Kalbadevi station was reduced by 22 meters to accommodate the water source at Fire Parsi temple. In Chennai all underground stations were reduced in size.	Design consultants to DMRCL, MMRCL, CMRCL if not possible by BMRCL.	Military School would need to sacrifice this 63.5 metres from their property for the greater good of ASC building stability, preservation of greenery & religious place of worship not being disrupted.
3.	Shifting of Station Box towards Military School (with reduction of Box Length)	Among the underground stations M G Road and Shivajinagar stations the Box size is 192.000 Meters each. Accordingly, the Vellara station box also can be brought down to 192.000 Meters from 236.520 Meters and push the station Box into military ground by 20 Meters, still the temporary acquisition can be avoided.	As above.	Design consultants to DMRCL, MMRCL, CMRCL if not possible by BMRCL.	Military School would need to sacrifice this 20 metres from their property for the greater good of ASC building stability, preservation of greenery & religious place of worship not being disrupted.

in the Reach-b line, extent of land required under Kamaraj road is just 4543 sqm inspite of MG Road being an interchange station, whereas at Vellara, Junction it is 6443 sqm, which is 40% higher than the DPR.

a) Astroach Metro Station in New Delhi was reduced from 265 Meters to 151.6 Meters. b) Mumbel Kalbadevi Metro Station length was reduced by 22 Meters to

where, where a caycol, rould be only too ready to ollaborate to achieve this.

ASC compound wo not need to be totalised

4.	Modify the present design of Vellara Station	In the Reach-6 line, extent of land required under Kamaraj road is just 4543 sqm inspite of MG Road being an Interchange station, whereas at Vellara Junction it is 6443 sqm, which is 40% higher than the DPR.	a) Ashram Metro Station in New Delhi was reduced from 265 Meters to 151.6 Meters. b) Mumbai Kalbadevi Metro Station length was reduced by 22 Meters to accommodate source of water point at the Parsi Fire Temple. c) Chennai Metro has adopted small station concept for underground Metro station by reducing the space required for Tunnel Ventilation system, successfully reducing the length from 230 to 150 Meters.	DMRCL, MMRCL & CMRCL would be only too ready to collaborate to achieve this.	ASC compound would not need to be touched.
5.	Tree Committee to certify removal of trees is unavoidable	In terms writ Petition No. 7107/2008 Tree committee is a must for any Public consultation. This issue was raised by Activist Leo Saldana during the Tree consultation. DFO Cholarajappa confirmed that the matter was escalated to his higher ups and the same is receiving their attention. He also assured that no permission will be granted for felling of trees till the above condition is fulfilled.	Petition No. 7107/2008 in High Court of Karnataka.? (Pl re-check)	Environment Support Group, led by Leo Saldanha.	Metro project would have to wait until this requirement is satisfied, thereby giving us time to renegotiate with BMRCL to avoid coming into ASC compound.
6.	Survey on structural stability of ASC church building	Danger & likelihood of irreparable damage to the church building due to its' age & construction material requires an expert opinion on whether it would be able to withstand the Metro work or not.	ampbell violating this norm id Road, implementation of saints In Delhi Ashram Sta	Archaelogical Society of India (ASI) has the capability & is widely recognised & accepted by authorities & govt bodies as the final authority on the subject. INTACH can also add weight to this approach.	Metro project would have to wait until this requirement is satisfied, thereby giving us time to re- negotiate with BMRCL to avoid coming into ASC compound.

7.	Diversion of Traffic	Guidelines for Metro says that all avenues should be exhausted before acquiring the land. There are many alternate avenues such as diversion of traffic from behind the Police officer's quarters or diverting the traffic through other roads etc., have not been thought of.	a) It may be noted that the Cottonpet Main road which used to cater to heavy flow of traffic than the Hosur Road stands closed since the last one year for the drainage work and during my visit a couple of days back revealed that the work is unlikely to finish for another one year. b) This apart the white topping work happening in Outer Ring Road and many other roads the traffic has been diverted through alternate roads.	INTACH, ESG & other activists.	
8.	ASC is a religious place of worship	Being not just a place of worship, but also almost 150 yrs old, not to mention belonging to a minority community, disruption of ASC inside its' compound should not be considered.		National Commission of Minorities (NCM) led by its' erstwhile Chairperson, Dr Sangliana. INTACH, ESG & other activists.	Metro project would have to wait until this requirement is satisfied, thereby giving us time to re- negotiate with BMRCL to avoid coming into ASC compound.
9	TBM to be lowered at MG Road	The Tunnel Boring machine should be lowered at M G Road and should start drilling towards Vellara Junction so that the debris can be removed at MG road end. So heavy earth moving equipment like dumpers, JCBs etc., need not enter our church premises.		Already agreed to by BMRCL, may not be required.	Extra land would not be required for this purpose

any of the above suggestrors is not acceptable then our KCD should initiate tegal remedy and we have lot of well-researched inputs to substantiate the merits of our stand which is to avoid coming into the ASC compound. With our support which is constantly available to the KCD team (including Legal Course) handling this, we believe a formidable strength can be generated the drive home our requirement of not

quote other such instance ossible in other Bir ocations, other cities. A number of lawyers of repute are available to represent ASCs cause should it be required.

Achieve our objective of Metro project not having to come into ASE compaund.

Seek Leg Recourse		acceptable legal rem researche merits of coming in our support to the KC Counsel) formidable drive how having to	the above suggestions is not the then our KCD should initiate edy and we have lot of welled inputs to substantiate the our stand which is to avoid to the ASC compound. Without which is constantly available D team (including Legal handling this, we believe a sestrength can be generated to be our requirement of not disrupt ASC physically from compound.	possible locations	her such instances if in other Blr, other cities.	repute ar	of lawyers of e available to : ASC's cause should uired.	of Metro	our objective project not come into cound.	
			the debris can be removed at a end. So heavy earth moving en	ulpment						



Environmental

Social

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1572, 36° Cross, 100 Feet Ring Road,

Governance Initiatives

Justice

Email/Regd Post Ack Due

Shri. H. D. Kumaraswamy Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Vidhana Soudha Bengaluru 560001

Reg.: Need for meaningful public participation in urban governance and urban planning

Respected Sir,

When a delegation of representatives from various peoples organisations and networks met with you on 16th March 2019 questioning the process by which the mega Elevated Corridor project was secretively promoted for Bengaluru by certain agencies of the Government, you readily agreed that the decision would be subjected to public review through consultations following the general elections. The public at large is keen to participate in these promised hearings, and request you to announce the process by which these consultations would be held.

As you are aware, the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has stayed the 2nd March 2019 tender issued issued by Karnataka Road Development Corporation Ltd. calling for bids for construction of Phase I of this contentious elevated corridor project. This direction is in a Public Interest Litigation filed by Citizens Action Forum, which demands that any urban project or land use plan must be subordinated to decision making as required per the Constitutional 74th Amendment (Nagarpalika) Act, 1992. This major reform law requires public involvement in decision making is critical to tackling the complexity of urban governance and planning, and thus mandatorily requires Ward Committees and Metropolitan Planning Committees must guide such decisions.

In this regard, it is pertinent to also draw your attention to the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka's order in a PIL initiated by Environment Support Group (WP 13241/2009), which has achieved finality. In this matter, based on statements of the State Government and key functionaries involved in urban planning and governance, the Court directed officials to strict comply with provisions of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961, else face contempt action. In this order the Court highlighted the crucial importance of transparency and accountability in promoting mega infrastructure projects such as the Metro or Elevated Corridors, and even listed out all the provisos that mandatorily require public involvement. Needless to state, there has been no compliance whatsoever with this direction thus far.

In recent months, besides the proposal of the Elevated Corridor, various proposals relating to urban planning and governance have been made by several agencies of the State and also special purpose vehicles. All these have been done in gross variance to the letter and spirit of the aforesaid directions of the Hon'ble Court. These proposals include the manner in which Phase II of the Metro is being undertaken by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. Quite controversially. The agency has also taken upon itself the role of promoting a massive change of land use of Bengaluru through a Transit Oriented Development Policy, when being a mere SPV set up jointly by the Governments of Karnataka and India, it has absolutely no role whatsoever in so deciding the city's futures.

In much the same way, Karnataka Dept. Of Ecology and Environment and Karnataka State Pollution Control

Board have promoted a variety of deeply problematic infrastructure projects, including road widening and elevated corridor constructions, claiming, controversially and wrongly, that such projects will tackle the serious crisis of air pollution in the Bengaluru metropolis.

Sir, it is evident that in the guise of attending to the crisis of traffic congestion, or air pollution, a variety of questionable proposals are being pushed through illegally and in contempt of Court directives by senior officials of your government. You have assured the public that the futures of urban areas like Bengaluru will not be victim to the imaginaries of a few and that it would be democratically shaped as an outcome of deeply democratic and statutory public involvement in decision making. It is in this spirit that you have promised to hold public consultations on the proposed Elevated Corridor. We request that you direct the Executive to ensure that every proposal now being made in the public interest is founded from this spirit of transparency, accountability and democratic review as is required per law and the Constitution of India.

We urge you also to ensure that when promoting capital intensive mega-projects, particularly in Bengaluru, due care is taken to ensure that the entire State of Karnataka benefits from equitable distribution of public investment. In this manner, the pressure of urbanisation, and the benefits accrued from this process, can be shared by the entire State, as was advocated in the *Report on Disparities in Development* prepared by noted economist Prof. D. M. Nanjundappa over a decade ago.

Bengaluru, in particular, has a resurgent citizens movement that is keen on ensuring that the city's governance is participatory and progressive, as is indicated in the enclosed article: "Recreate Bengaluru with public imaginaries, involvement". We urge you to channelise this energy to create a metropolis inclusive of all, and as an example of deeply democratic governance for the world at large.

Thank you,

Leo E Saldanha

Coordinator/Trustee

Environment Support Group

Encl.: As above.

Cc.:

- 1. Dr. G. Parameshwara, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka
- 2. Council of Ministers of the Government of Karnataka
- 3. Chief Secretary and Principal Secretaries of Government of Karnataka
- 4. Secretary, Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- 5. Secretary, Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 6. Secretary, Union Ministry for Road Transport and Highways
- 7. Secretary, Union Ministry of Finance
- 8. Secretary, Union Department of Economic Affairs
- 9. Managing Director, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
- 10. Managing Director, Karnataka Road Development Corporation Ltd.
- 11. Mayor, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
- 12. Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
- 13. Chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
- 14. Managing Directors of agencies financing Bangalore Metro and Elevated Corridor proposal
- 15. Media and the public.

ANNEXURE P

ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಉಪ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ DEPUTY SECRETARY TO CHIEF MINISTER



ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ ವಿಧಾನ ಸೌಧ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – ೫೬೦ ೦೦೧ CHIEF MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT VIDHANA SOUDHA, BENGALURU - 560 001

<u>ಮನವಿದಾರರ ಪ್ರತಿ</u>

ಪತ್ರದ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : CM / 33174 / REP-GEN / 2019

ಮಾನ್ಯರೇ,

<u>ವಿಷಯ :</u> ನಗರ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮತ್ತು ನಗರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವಿಕೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ತಮ್ಮ ಮನವಿಯನ್ನು ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರಿಗೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: CM / 33174 / REP-GEN / 2019 ದಿನಾಂಕ 28/06/2019 ಪತ್ರದ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಕ್ರಮದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸದರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ವಂದನೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ,

ತಮ್ಮ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಿ ,

(ಅರುಣ್ ಫುರ್ಟಾಡೋ)

ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಉಪ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಲೀಯೋ ಎಫ್ ಸಾಲ್ಡಾನ್ಹಾ, ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿ, ಎನ್ವಾರನ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ರಸರ್ಪೋಟ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್, ನಂ.1572, 36 ಕ್ರಾಸ್, 100 ಅಡಿ ರಿಂಗ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬನಶಂಕರಿ 2ನೇ ಹಂತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.