



(Regd., Public Charitable Trust No 599 / 94--95 IV)
#6, Kasturi Apts, 2nd floor, No.35/23, Langford Road Cross, Shanthi Nagar, Bangalore 560025
Tel: 2211 0584 / 2271 1001, E-mail: civicbllore@gmail.com Internet: www.civicspace.in

30th October 2007

His Excellency,
The Governor of Karnataka
RAJBHAVAN
Rajbhavan Road
Bangalore 560001

Sir,

Subject: Tree felling to widen roads of Bangalore

CIVIC is deeply concerned that despite the lengthy meeting of Hasiru-Usiru (of which CIVIC is a part) with Mr. Shekar (DCF), BBMP, and others in late August, where we raised several policy lacunae in the decision to fell trees to widen roads, felling of more than 50 trees has been undertaken on Bellary Road last week and about 140 trees on St. John's Hospital Rd. are also targeted.

- ◆ We had pointed out that decisions to cut trees rests with the Tree Authority under the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act and decisions not authorised by this body would not be legal.
- ◆ We had also requested answers to various other points related to the National Urban Transport Policy which the present plans for road-widening in Bangalore do not address.
- ◆ We had also sought the publicising of road-widening plans under the Right to Information Act.

Despite these objections, we are anguished that tree-felling is being carried out even before the setting up of the Tree Authority (with three non-official members as per the Act) and without taking Hasiru-Usiru into confidence, as directed by

the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. In the light of this, the withdrawal of the order for tree-felling on Seshadri Rd. and Palace Rd. is poor consolation.

Hasiru Usiru never agreed to any resumption of tree-felling at the meeting convened in August. We had made it abundantly clear that there should be no resumption until our concerns were adequately addressed. It had also been agreed at the meeting that public hearings would be held in each area where tree-felling was being proposed. No such hearings have been held at Bellary Rd. or now at St. John's Hospital Rd.

Since policy issues were involved which could not be answered by Mr. Shekar and others at the August meeting, they requested us to meet higher authorities. We hence approached the Chief Secretary and the PWD Secretary. The Chief Secretary has asked the Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) chief to allow us to make a presentation of 10 minutes at the next BMLTA meeting. **But since this meeting is scheduled only after three months and tree-felling is going on meanwhile, we seek an appointment with you to discuss the issues of concern to us, and to put on hold the tree-felling until then.**

Hoping you will oblige.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours respectfully,

Kathyayini Chamaraj
Executive Trustee
CIVIC

Attachment: Memorandum on tree-felling submitted to Chief Secretary and others

Copy to:

1. Chief Secretary & Chairman, Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore
2. Member-secretary, BMLTA & Commissioner, BMRDA, Bangalore
3. Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department, GoK, Bangalore
4. Secretary, Public Works Department, GoK, Bangalore
5. Secretary, Forests, Ecology & Environment, GoK, Bangalore
6. Chief Conservator of Forests, Aranya Bhavan, Malleshwaram, Bangalore
7. Commissioner, BBMP, N. R. Square, Bangalore

8. Deputy Conservator Of Forests & Tree Officer, BBMP, N.R. Square,
Bangalore