

**Before the Hon'ble Empowered Committee on
Bengaluru Roads**

**Constituted per interim direction of
Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka**

In

**Writ Petition (PIL) No. 7107/2008
Bengaluru 560002**

Petitioners Interim Application No. 2/2008

Bengaluru, 23 July 2008

In. Re.: Initiation of appropriate action against the officials of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and the officials of the Karnataka State Forest Department

Sir/Madam,

The averments made in Petitioners IA No. 1/2008 may be read as a part of this application.

We would like to bring to your notice that tree felling activity is being engaged in concomitant with road widening on Race Course Road, Palace Road and Kanakapura Road without any prior sanction from this Hon'ble Committee.

1. On Sunday, 20 July 2008, over a dozen trees were felled from the Basava Bhavan Circle all along Race Course Road. Efforts made to stop the same as being violative of the interim direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in WP No. 7107/2008 fell on deaf ears. Kindly refer to **Annexure A** for photographic evidence of the same.
2. Alongside fresh digging work was being undertaken on Palace Road from Basava Bhavan circle all the way to the residence of Shri. Mirza Ismail's residence, unnecessarily jeopardizing the health of several large trees which form a heritage of Bengaluru. Enquiries with the local workers revealed that M/s BSNL was engaged in fixing a cable broken by road widening works undertaken by officials of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. This jeopardized motorists as no safeguards were provided, and

unnecessarily and illegally exposed the roots of these trees. No stabilization of earth at the base of these trees was engaged in despite many requests. Kindly refer to **Annexure B** for photographic evidence of the same.

3. On 22 July 2008, widespread felling of trees was engaged in on Kanakapura Road, even as several physical encroachments by various unauthorized religious institutions that block traffic has not been attended to. Furthermore, none of the utilities of M/s BESCO, in the nature of field level transformers or telephone switch boxes of various Telecom companies have been shifted out of the proposed lanes to be added. Even so, the trees have been needlessly felled in total contravention of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in WP No. 7107/2008. When the Petitioner – 2 raised this concern telephonically with the Tree Officer (Bengaluru), Shri. Suresh, Asst. Conservator of Forests, Karnataka State Forest Department, the latter claimed that he had authorized the felling of the said trees. When the Petitioner – 2 requested for clarification whether the aforesaid Committee had sanctioned such tree felling, he was evasive. Kindly refer to **Annexure C** for photographic evidence of the same.

PRAYER

Wherefore, it is prayed that this Hon'ble Committee be pleased to initiate appropriate action against the concerned officials for acting in violating of mandate of the Committee, in patent disregard of the aforesaid directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka and in blatant violation of the relevant statutes.
Yours sincerely

For Petitioner – 1
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