PRESS RELEASE

This is in response to the article "For 296/297 days, this group has been protesting to save a 150-year-old Church in Bengaluru" published in The News Minute on 12th March, 2020 and in Prajavani on 13.03.2020. BMRCL wishes to clarify as follows:

Metro alignment in Hosur Road is 36M away from All Saints Church Building and does not pass below the Church Building. An open area of 1140 Sqm with few trees in front of the Church building is required for construction of underground Metro station. Width of Church premises along Hosur Road is around 90M whereas width of land required for metro construction is only 38m, thereby leaving sufficient width along the Hosur Road. Thus main approach to the Church from Hosur Road remains intact even during Metro construction. Open area required for Metro construction is small comparing to total area of the Church premises. Construction activity will be away from the Church by around 17M. Space will be available in front of the Church for day-to-day activities. Also, open space belonging to Institutions like Cathedral High School and Cathedral Composite Pre University College which are located adjacent to the Church premises can be utilized in special occasions.

Area required is only vacant land that too on Temporary basis for a period of around 3 years. Number of trees to be cleared for Metro construction in area required on temporary basis is only 26. Even some of the trees can be transplanted within the Church premises itself. The station box top will be at about 2.50M below ground level which can very well facilitate tree growing, once the Metro construction works are completed. Trees are coming up above Metro Stations at Vidhana Soudha, Cubbon Park and Central College.

There will not be any damage to Church structure by Metro construction activities. All the necessary precautions to protect the Church Building will be taken by BMRCL. BMRCL has successfully carried out such similar construction works for UG stations in Phase-1. One of such works was that of Cubbon Park UG Station constructed at a distance of just 3M from more than 100 years old CTO Building, without causing any damage.

Religious places are acquired for Metro Project, only when such acquisition is inevitable. For Phase-2 works itself, 33 religious places have been acquired, which includes Thirty Temples, Two Churches and One Mosque.

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