



Citizens' Action Forum
The Fifth Estate



25th Nov 2016

To,
Shri Manjunath Prasad
Commissioner
BBMP

Dear Sir,

Subject: Role of Bangalore Metropolitan Planning Committee in preparation of Master Plan 2031.

Namma Bengaluru Foundation (NBF) is a public charitable trust which assists and participates in urban governance and development activities for the general public of Bengaluru. We aim to serve the people by proactively participating in and addressing various problems faced by the city and its citizens, through advocacy, partnership and activism. We actively involved in hosting various public awareness programmes such as fire safety awareness, water conservation awareness, garbage segregation and waste management, etc. to promote civic awareness amongst general public. An essential cog in our wheel is filing various public interest litigations before various Hon'ble courts pertaining to issues that have pushed Bengaluru towards the edge of becoming an unliveable city including illegal occupation and developments in and around the lakes in the city of Bangalore, Adhoc projects such as Steel Flyover at Hebbal, "Akrama Sakrama Bill" and others.

Working on similar lines of improving the overall well-being of the city is Citizen Action Forum (CAF) - a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1960, consisting of a group of citizens focussed on ensuring transparency and accountability in matters of governance through citizen participation. CAF has been involved in various matters relating to electoral reforms, waste management, traffic management, lack of parking facilities and several other causes of public importance in Bengaluru City. It has also played an active role in securing a stay order against implementation of the commonly known 'Akrama Sakrama Bill' through a Public Interest Litigation filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka and obtained a final order to protect residential areas in a PIL challenging the Master Plan of 2015. This group has also been actively involved in preparing a Citizen's Alternative Budget to be submitted to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

Recently, both NBF and CAF became aware of the fact that the preparation of the Master Plan 2031 is at an advanced stage. As per information available with us, the contractor engaged for the purposes of preparing the Master Plan 2031 has already submitted the visioning document for consideration to the Bangalore Development Authority ("BDA").

We have also learnt that during the process of preparation, the Bangalore Metropolitan Planning Committee (BMPC) has not been involved in the finalisation of the visioning document. Further, the committee formed by the BDA to review the visioning document and eventually the Master Plan 2031 does not consist of a single member of the BMPC.

The visioning exercise is at the heart of the planning process and the entire Master Plan document is basis the fundamental vision. A faulty vision exercise would indeed lead to a faulty Master Plan for the city.

The BMPC is the statutory body mandated under the 74th Constitutional Amendment. The primary intention of the 74th Amendment is devolution of powers to local bodies in order to ensure a robust system of local self-governance. The 74th Amendment specifically provides for formation of Metropolitan Planning Committees. One of the key roles of the Metropolitan Planning Committees as envisaged by the Constitution is to draft and prepare a plan that meets the present and future needs of land use and development within the metropolitan area of the city.

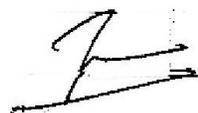
It is thus imperative that the BMPC is involved at every stage of preparation of any Vision Document and the Master Plan 2031 for Bengaluru. In fact, the BMPC should lead the effort supported by Government agencies as the BDA, BBMP, BWSSB et al.

We would like to add here that decisions regarding planning in Bengaluru, especially with regard to roads, flyovers and other major transportation and mobility projects, which are not a part of the current Master Plan 2015, are also being implemented without any involvement of or discussion within the BPMC.

Members of BMPC are representatives of Bengaluru who have a fundamental duty and obligation towards the city.

Hence, we urge you to take this matter seriously and take immediate steps to correct the current process and act in support of the right and constitutional process of planning for our City.

Yours Sincerely,



Vijayan Menon
Committee Member
Citizens Action Forum



Sridhar Pabbisetty
CEO
Namma Bengaluru Foundation