

HC's appeal to residents: Don't oppose Metro line

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Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Thursday appealed to the citizens of Cuffe Parade and other south Mumbai areas to come forward and support the construction of the Mumbai Metro 3 line, instead of opposing it.

A division bench of justices VM Kanade and AM Badar said, "So many South Mumbai people will benefit from the Metro line. You can reach the airport on time. Several cases of people missing their flights have been reported, and that will be done away with as the Metro directly connects to the airport."

The bench posted an application moved by MMRDA seeking to destroy 108 mangroves in Bandra-Kurla Complex area on Tuesday, after the Bombay Environment



Action Group (BEAG) opposed the petition and sought time to file their reply to the plea. The bench said, "Not all litigation should be treated as adversarial. This infrastructure should have come to the city almost 30 years ago."

A Cuffe Parade resident, who filed a petition seeking a stay on the felling of trees for the construction of the Metro line, argued that the project has not received proper permission from the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

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The city has been dug up, causing huge traffic inconvenience to the citizens, the petitioner contends. According to the petition, it takes half an hour to reach the Bombay High Court from Cuffe Parade.

To this, the court said, "For a year or so, there will be disturbance. But once it's ready, it will bring a lot of relief for Mumbai-

kars. It will help our children and grand children and generations to come."

The court has asked MMRDA to place on record a tree re-plantation plan and undertaking given before another court, of maintaining the trees for three years. It reminded the authority, "Development is required, but preserving mangroves is also very important."