

Be pragmatic, city needs Metro: HC

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MUMBAI: The Bombay high court has advised those opposing the Mumbai Metro 3 project over the consequent destruction of the city's green cover to take a "pragmatic view."

A bench of justice VM Kanade and justice AM Badar said the Metro was "very important" considering the worsening traffic situation in the city.

Justice Kanade said the city should have developed a metro network "30 years ago."

"These public utility projects should have been operational in the city decades ago and still, people are opposing them, causing further delay," he said.

The court said several people travelled between north and south Mumbai each day, and thousands others died in road accidents.

The Metro 3 project will prove immensely useful for these people and thus, those opposing the project must "first consider the ground situation."

The HC was hearing an appli-

HC SAID THE PROJECT WILL PROVE USEFUL FOR SEVERAL COMMUTERS AND THOSE OPPOSING THE PROJECT MUST "FIRST CONSIDER THE GROUND SITUATION"

cation filed by the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) seeking the court's nod to clear 108 mangroves to build the proposed Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) metro station.

MMRC's advocate Kiran Bagalia told the high court the corporation had permissions from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and it will also undertake compensatory replantation at alternate sites.

Bagalia said although no mangroves would be destroyed for the Dharavi station, the MMRC will still plant 4,000 mangroves in the area after completing construction.

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