

HON. NELSON S. LEGACION
City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

– City Councilors –

HON. GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR.	HON. CECILIA VELUZ-DE ASIS
HON. DAVID CASPER NATHAN A. SERGIO	HON. ESTEBAN GREG R. ABONAL III
HON. MARIA ELIZABETH Q. LAVADIA	HON. JOAQUIN F. PEREZ, JR.
HON. ELMER S. BALDEMORO	HON. MILA S.D. RAQUID-ARROYO
HON. JOSE A. TUASON	HON. RAY-AN CYDRICK G. RENTOY
HON. JOSE B. IMPORTANTE	HON. DAN PAOLO R. MORALES

RESOLUTION NO.2013-167
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UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSING THE CUTTING OF 651 TREES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) PROJECT OF WIDENING THE DAANG MAHARLIKA FROM BARANGAY DEL ROSARIO TO BARANGAY MABOLO, CITY OF NAGA, AND STRONGLY REQUESTING THE DPWH TO INSTEAD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVES BEING PROPOUNDED BY THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF NAGA THROUGH HIS HONOR, MAYOR JOHN G. BONGAT:-

Introduced by: **HON. GABRIEL HIDALGO BORDADO, JR.**

WHEREAS, the national government has allocated P100 million under the 2013 General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the widening of Daang Maharlika from Barangay Del Rosario to Barangay Mabolo, City of Naga;

WHEREAS, using said fund allocations, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), through its regional office, is proposing to build a four-lane highway, with shoulder and sidewalks, on both sides, to alleviate traffic congestion in the area;

WHEREAS, the DPWH proposal will require tearing down structures which have encroached on the road-right-of-way (RROW) for said highway, including 651 mature trees which were planted and have grown along the subject segment of Daang Maharlika;

WHEREAS, Section 27 of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that no project or program shall be implemented by government authorities unless the consultations mentioned in Section 2 © and 26 thereof are complied with, and prior approval of the Sanggunian concerned is obtained;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Naga, through His Honor, Mayor John G. Bongat, expressed its deep reservation regarding the project in a letter dated March 26, 2013 and addressed to DPWH Regional Director Danilo E. Dequito, noting that these old trees are “a legacy of our predecessors and of various civic organizations and are held dear not only for individuals and institutions they represent but for the present and future generations as well;

WHEREAS, consistent with said thinking, the City Government of Naga has offered two alternatives aimed at preserving said trees: (1) the construction of a "Lifestyle Lane", to be complemented by a walking/jogging/hiking lane after the tree line or (2) the expansion of the Almeda highway into a four-lane highway consistent with DPWH standards which will serve the main purpose of an express bypass road;

WHEREAS, such alternatives are superior to the DPWH proposal, considering that there are already four lanes in the coverage area, and that traffic congestion is caused not by these existing lanes but misguided drivers and misplaced signs;

WHEREAS, it is, therefore, incumbent upon the Sangguniang Panlungsod to express unequivocally its position on the said matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, on joint and collective motion of the 11th Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Naga;

BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to unequivocally oppose the cutting of 651 trees in connection with the proposed DPWH project of widening the Daang Maharlika from Barangay Del Rosario to Barangay Mabolo, City of Naga;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, as it is further resolved, that in implementing the proposed widening of Daang Maharlika using the P100 million in the 2013 GAA, the national government should adopt instead either of the two alternatives put forward by the City Government of Naga through His Honor, Mayor John G. Bongat, which would attain both objectives of relieving traffic congestion, on one hand, and protecting the old trees lining said highway and the overall integrity of the national environment, on the other.

LET COPIES of this resolution be furnished His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III; DPWH Secretary Rogelio Singson; Rep. Ma. Leonor G. Robredo of the 3rd Congressional District of Camarines Sur; and DPWH Regional Director Danilo Dequito for their information and guidance.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
Adopted: July 9, 2013

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WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

GIL A. DE LA TORRE
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Panlungsod

NELSON S. LEGACION
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APPROVED:

JOHN G. BONGAT
City Mayor