GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate Belagavi-590002.
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No.DC.MAG.MISC.CR-04/2026-27 Date: 17.08.2026

To,

The Chief Executive Officer
Belagavi Cantonment Board
Camp, Belagavi

Sir,

Subject: Objection under Section 258 of the Cantonments Act, 2006 to the Public Notices dated 05.08.2026 issued vide CBR No. 26 (swapping of Cantonment Fund Roads and MES Roads) and CBR No. 27 (installation of traffic barriers).

This is with reference to two public notices issued by the Cantonment Board, Belagavi, both dated 05.08.2026, inviting objections and suggestions under Section 258 of the Cantonments Act, 2006.

CBR No. 26 dated 17.07.2026 proposes the swapping of Cantonment Fund Roads with MES Roads on a quid pro quo basis, specifically Albert Ekka Road (Raigarh Gate to Ginjee Gate), Smart Road (Harshan Enclave Gate to Ramghat Road), and Queen Garden Road (Sharqat Park to Queens Garden), all currently Cantonment Fund Roads, being handed over to the Army/MES in exchange for Gymkhana Road (Shourya Chowk to Gandhi Chowk, Class 'C' land), currently an MES Road, being handed over to the Cantonment Board.

CBR No. 27 dated 17.07.2026 proposes installation of traffic barriers at two locations, near BC No. 183, Independence Road, Class 'C' Road, and on Gymkhana Road, Class 'A-1' Road, near Gurudwara Gate.

As Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Belagavi, I hereby place on record my formal objection to both proposals, on the following grounds:

1. Section 258(2) of the Cantonments Act, 2006 permits a Board to permanently close, or restrict access to, a street only for security reasons, and expressly bars closure for any other reason. Neither CBR No. 26 nor CBR No. 27 discloses a specific, documented security threat. CBR No. 26 is framed purely as an administrative land exchange between Cantonment Fund and MES categories of road, and CBR No. 27 is silent on what specific incident, threat assessment, or risk has necessitated barriers at both locations. In the absence of a recorded security ground, both proposals fall outside the scope of Section 258 and are not sustainable in their present form.

2. Under CBR No. 26, a single road, Gymkhana Road, Shourya Chowk to Gandhi Chowk, is being offered as compensation for the loss of three separate roads serving distinct corridors, namely Raigarh Gate to Ginjee Gate, Harshan Enclave Gate to Ramghat Road, and Sharqat Park to Queens Garden. No traffic study, connectivity assessment, or capacity analysis has been placed before the public to demonstrate that this one road can absorb the combined commuter, school, and commercial traffic currently distributed across three roads.

3. These three roads are used daily by residents, schoolchildren, commuters, small traders, and residents for whom they form the primary means of access to the city. Any permanent alteration of this scale requires a public access impact assessment, which has not been disclosed or placed before the public along with the present notice.

4. CBR No. 27 proposes barriers at two locations that are both actively used by the general public for daily movement. Restricting access at these points, without a disclosed public access study, will affect residents, commuters, and visitors who currently use these stretches as through routes. The Board is requested to assess and disclose the extent of public inconvenience before proceeding with either barrier.

5. As Chairperson of the District Disaster Management Authority, Belagavi, I note that all the roads named in both notices form part of the district's internal mobility network, relied upon for ambulance movement, fire tender access, and access to public services during emergencies. Neither notice is accompanied by any assessment of how the proposed swap or the proposed barriers would affect emergency response times in the affected areas, and such an assessment must be conducted before either proposal proceeds.

6. The roads named in CBR No. 26 have been in continuous, open, and peaceable public use for several decades, connecting civilian residential localities, schools, and markets with the Camp area. This long standing pattern of use cannot be disregarded or extinguished through an administrative land exchange without due process, including notice to and hearing of the affected public.

In view of the foregoing, I request that the Cantonment Board:

(i) Defer any final decision on CBR No. 26 until a comprehensive traffic impact and alternative connectivity study has been conducted and shared with the district administration and the general public.

(ii) Defer any final decision on CBR No. 27 and disclose the specific reason for the barriers proposed at both locations.

(iii) Place on record the specific security ground, if any exists, for both proposals.

(iv) Convene a public hearing, in addition to the written objections already invited, given the scale of public interest evident in this matter.

(v) Confirm in writing whether the standardized protocol laid down by the Ministry of Defence vide Order No. 14(9)/2018 D(Q&C) dated 04.09.2018 has been complied with for both proposals.

(vi) Forward this objection, together with all objections received from the public, to the Ministry of Defence.

(vii) Ensure that no final closure or barrier installation order is issued or implemented on either notice until the above steps are completed and communicated to this office.

Yours faithfully,

(Mohammad Roshan, IAS)
Deputy Commissioner &
District Magistrate, Belagavi