

Roadside oscar
malapitan led the
planting of d.



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Roadside trees reduce air pollution (Rai, 2015), noise pollution and water logging; moderate effect of wind and incoming radiation; and provide shade, aesthetics, and ornamentation (National Highways Authority of India, n. d.). Firetree (*Delonix regia*) is a roadside tree (Rai, 2015; Suhane et al, 2016) mainly valued as a decorative tree (Orwa et al, 2009).

Unfortunately, *D. regia* was deemed dangerous in Puerto Princesa City, especially along Sta Monica National Highway after a firetree fell down a driver resting in his motorcycle (TV Patrol Palawan, 2014). According to Ziyu Tian (2016), *D. regia* is a popular tree that provides shade to the urban environment in Hong Kong. Dr. Allen Zhang, assistant professor at the Faculty of Design and Environment at the Technological and Higher Educational Institute of Hong Kong (THEi) claimed “the flame tree could adapt to Hong Kong’s environment very well in urban parks, public housing estates, and public spaces, but not as a roadside tree. Limited space results in oxygen deficiency, malnutrition and conflict with pavement” (qtd. in Tian, 2016).

This is due to branches growing horizontally (Orwa et al, 2009). Thus, Hong Kong cannot plant the tree in crowded areas where space is scarce yet it is still widely planted in less densely populated areas (Tian, 2016) for its aesthetic purpose. Whereas in Australia, *D. regia* is considered an environment weed for having invasive roots that damage sidewalks (Queensland Government, n. d.

). Meanwhile, *D. regia* falling has caused two deaths in India in 2017, with falling trees claiming 17 fatalities in the last six years. Assistant Municipal Commissioner and local (M-West) Ward Officer Harshad Kale said “the tree

looked strong from outside, but its roots were weak” pertaining to the D. regia roots not appreciating moisture due to the continuous rain (qtd. inSingh, 2017). On the other hand, under the ‘ Replace your Tree Program’ in 2014, the Metropolitan Manila Development (MMDA)gave around 1, 000 D. regia saplingsto the residents who lost a tree/trees due to Typhoon Glenda.

The Department ofEnvironment and Natural Resources provided the saplings. As mentioned by MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino, D regia is pleasing to the eye and isnot hard to take care of; they are good replacement for the uprooted trees(qtd. in Brizuela, 2014). Following this, Caloocan City Mayor Oscar Malapitanled the planting of D. regia alongSaranay Road, Caloocan (David, 2017) as part of his environment-friendlysolutions in providing oxygen, shade, and adding aesthetics to the streets(Politics, 2017).

Similarly, Palawan has D. regia as roadside trees in Puerto Princesa City and Culion (PCSDS, 2006). Usually planted for ornamental purposes, D.

regia has gained attention from tourists visiting the province, asmentioned in several blogspots (Mikem, 2011; Mae, 2017; Kathryn, 2017). However, despite gaining popularity for its beauty, D. regia has been deemed dangerous bythe residents living beside Sta. Monica National Highway due to the increasingfatalities of D. regia falling (TVPatrol Palawan, 2014). As such, falling oftrees along highways and roads were filed as the main reason for the public tocomplain, followed by brittle and thick branches, and leaning tree trunk, relative to roadside trees (Hasan et al, 2016).

Citing this, the researchers will aim to identify fracture properties of D. regia in relation to the climate, air temperature, and soil of thecity, thus

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determining its appropriateness to be planted as a roadside tree along Sta. Monica National Highway, Puerto Princesa City.