

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE 27TH FOUNDATION DAY OF THE HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION OF MANIPUR ON 16TH NOVEMBER, 2017 AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR, IMPHAL.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Manipur,

Shri H.S. Paonam, Sr. Advocate, President, High Court Bar Association of Manipur,

Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister, Law & Legislative Affairs, Manipur,

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kh. Nobin Singh, Judge, High Court of Manipur,

Shri N. Kumarjit Singh, Advocate General, Manipur,

Shri O. Modhuchandra Singh, Chairman, Bar Council of Manipur,

Shri H. Chandrajit Sharma, President, All Manipur Bar Association,

All the distinguished Members of High Court Bar Association,

Friends from Electronic and Print Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be associated with the 27th Foundation Day celebration of the High Court Bar Association of Manipur. On this joyous and memorable occasion, I congratulate the members of the Association and all the other members of the legal fraternity for their service to the society.

It is heartening to note that since its inception in the year, 1990, the High Court Bar Association has been engaging in various activities for improvement of the justice delivery system in the state. One of the most important being the establishment of a Permanent Bench of the then Gauhati High Court at Imphal. The untiring efforts made by its Members bore fruit and could see the light of day with the establishment of the Permanent Bench at Imphal on 21st January, 1992. Having felt the necessity of a separate High Court for the State of Manipur, the collective effort of all stakeholders with

the Bar Association playing no small role, the High Court of Manipur came into being in the year, 2013. As a matter of fact, the role played by the Manipur Bar Association in actualizing a separate High Court for Manipur merits well-deserved appreciation. With the establishment of the High Court, the people of Manipur now have easier and cheaper access to justice.

As we all know, the Judiciary is one of the 3 (three) pillars on which democracy thrives. The others being Legislature and Executive. The role of the Judiciary is all the more important as it is this institution which is the guardian and guards against any transgression of law. One aspect which is worrying me like many others is the delay in disposal of cases. We often come across reports in the newspapers of large number of pending cases. 'Justice delayed is justice denied' and all should make concerted effort for quick delivery of justice. Another aspect which is no less worrying is the high cost of legal fees often keeping legal remedy out of the poor man's reach. We all need to put our heads together to ameliorate this situation.

During its long journey of 27 years till date, the High Court Bar Association of Manipur has been playing a pivotal role in the field of law in various forms. I have learnt that the Association has been holding legal awareness camps as well as extending free legal services to those who cannot afford. These initiatives are praiseworthy. I would urge the Association and all members of the legal fraternity not to allow miscarriage of justice in any form. I am confident that justice is safe in your hands and the state has the reputation of having produced a number of eminent lawyers and judges.

With these words, I wish the High Court Bar Association the very best on its 27th Foundation Day and strive to further glorify its existence, add new feathers to its cap and attain new heights in the days ahead.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.