

**Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Phase-IV Building
at High Court premises on Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

Hon'ble Law Minister, Shri R. B. Subba;
My noble Brother Justice Shri Bhaskar Raj Pradhan;
My dear friend, Shri Justice A. P. Subba;
Additional Chief Secretary;
Finance Secretary;
Secretary, Buildings & Housing Department;
Registrar General, Law Secretary, Registrar;
District Judge, East;
All Judicial Officers;
Senior Advocates;
Learned Advocates;
Chief Engineer;
Other Registry Officers and employees;
Police Officers;
Print & Electronic Media;
Ladies & Gentlemen.

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A legal maxim - "***Fiat Justitia ruat caelum***".

Let Justice be done though the heavens fall. Justice be done not only in the Court premises, justice be done anywhere. But if somebody fails to do justice, then you need a place to seek justice. Why premises are required, let us consider. Of course, justice can be administered even under a tree but if there is a proper place having proper accessibility, then administration of justice is efficient and effective.

Keeping in this view, it was thought of constructing this building with the help of the State Government, it is going to come up and I hope, very shortly, as pointed out by Hon'ble Law Minister, it will be completed. Of course, foundation stone is laid today but one thing I would like to tell that the Chief Executive of the State assured, may be eight months before, for this structure. Accordingly, existing structure as you all know very well, was demolished, may be six months' before but I would like to remind the Additional Chief Secretary and the Finance Secretary, present here, due to bureaucratic delay it has taken almost six months to see today's laying of foundation stone. I am sure, now, much more time will not be taken. You know, we have some space here where Doctor (Medical Unit) was there, some other facilities were there. They have been taken to the main building where it is very cramped up, still we are going on because it cannot cease to work, work must go on.

This building, which is going to come up, may have several accommodations. All the time, I felt that Bar members do not have sufficient space. But I have a complaint. There was one big room given in the main building to the Bar members. Often I visited that place along with my Sister and Brother Judges and I did not find a single advocate sitting there. It was always in a bad shape, cleanliness was not maintained, no book, no library. And all the time, I thought of and I virtually decided to take this and give it back to the Registry. Registry needs more space.

So, I would like to request all advocates who are going to have one full floor for Bar members, please make use of it, create

your own library and let your clients come and meet you here, not in your places. So, this is where you can receive grievances of an aggrieved person. Secondly, who is a consumer of justice? Consumer of justice is certainly not Judges, not advocates but other persons, who need justice at every moment of life, every walk of life and if they do not get justice, they need some place, may be High Court, may be District Courts. They should know where is the High Court, where is the District Court and they should be taken to that place. They must also feel comfortable. There is no space for litigants where they can sit, they can have a glass of water, they can cool themselves and they can then meet their concerned advocates and others.

So, here presently, as told by Chief Engineer, the third floor will comprise of Director's and other rooms that is meant for Judicial Academy. But we are going to have a very huge building of Judicial Academy. After shifting there, this place can be utilized for litigants' sitting. Some of you must have seen Delhi High Court. There you have seen how comfortable clients are. Air-conditioned hall is there, where litigants can discuss their problems with the advocates.

I may not be here at the time when this proposed building comes into existence but I am sure, Brother Justice Pradhan is here and others they will take care of this and certainly will create space for others, i.e. litigants. One more thing is very important and I am happy that Government is very co-operative. But you know, in order to have a vibrant democracy, you must strengthen judiciary. If judiciary is not strengthened then democracy cannot

survive. It is well known. And for strengthening judiciary, for having robust judiciary, you need certain things – proper staffing pattern, proper infrastructure. Of course, we are able to get so many things. Now, as I am told by Hon'ble Law Minister, recently one Civil Court is inaugurated at Rangpo. I always felt this was the need; this should have been the first. Now, very shortly, we are going to have another at Jorethang and slowly other Civil Courts will come where people have not to travel all the way to Gangtok for each and everything.

After coming of this fourth phase infrastructure in existence, there will be sufficient space, accommodation for all of you. You can make use of it by interacting with your clients, by preparing your case, that is equally important. You need a library and I always believe one fact, never look, at least members of the Bar should never look towards any governmental agency or any other agency for supply of books, for supply of library. Why? It is an independent profession. Why do not you spare every year, every month some amount for the purpose of getting your own library. You may not develop it in your own house, develop a good library here. We are going to give you one full floor. Please develop some system where some contribution is made by all the advocates, ranging from Senior advocates, who may make a contribution of Rs.1,000/- - Rs.2,000/- per month not year, juniors may make a contribution of Rs.5/-, Rs.10/-, Rs.150/-. Develop a good library.

See, I was reading today one journal. There is one public library, Connemara Public Library at Egmore in Chennai, Tamil

Nadu. And you know, in that library though it is a Government library, but what is important, I am going to tell you. In that library, 1300 all journals are subscribed, 600 Tamil local language journals are there irrespective of dailies and others, and 130 dailies. Why don't you develop this concept here also. Government may do on its own having good library. We may not say anything unless it comes to the Court on judicial side. But advocates can develop this good library where you should allow access to everyone – students, junior advocates and some times, even if somebody/ some private persons also want to come and take advantage of it, please allow them. Develop something good and that will be a contribution for posterity. So, this is my suggestions.

It is said in Hindi –

देर आयद दुरस्त आयद ॥

It is late but it has come. I am sure, very shortly it will be fully completed. Thank you. I compliment all of you and I wish all of you the best.

Thank you.
