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நீதிச்சேவை ஆணைக்குழுச் செயலகம்
Judicial Service Commission Secretariat

JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT

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திகதி
Date

JSC/SEC COR: 1

To: All High Court Judges/All Judicial Officers and Presidents of Labour Tribunals

In view of the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) the Judicial Service Commission decided to issue the following instructions to all High Court Judges/Judicial Officers and Presidents of Labour Tribunals, with the aim of preventing the spread of the said virus. The objective of these measures is to minimize crowding in courthouses.

The following instructions will be operative from 17th to 20th March 2020, and the Judicial Service Commission will consider issuing further instructions upon evaluation of the situation hereafter.

Instructions in respect of Commercial High Court, Civil Appellate High Courts and District Courts :

- Calling cases should not be taken up in open court and the rescheduled dates of those calling cases to be notified by publication of a notice in the respective courts, during the first week of April 2020.
- All other hearings to be restricted to urgent and essential matters only, based on the applications made by the Parties and/or Attorneys-At-Law.
- Attorneys-At Law- are requested to advise their clients not to visit the Courthouses unless their presence is directed by the Court or is essential.
- During the period from 17th to 20th March 2020, no adverse/default orders to be passed in matters where Parties/Witnesses are absent.
- Requests from Parties/Attorneys-At -Law/Witnesses for adjournments to be considered favorably during the above period.

Instructions in respect of High Courts /Magistrate's Courts

- Calling cases should not be taken up in open court and the rescheduled dates of those calling cases to be notified by publication of a notice in the respective courts, during the first week of April 2020.

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කැ.පෙ. 573, අළුත් කොට්ඨාසය, කොළඹ 12.

த.பெ.இல. 573, புதுக்கடை, கொழும்பு 12.

P.O. Box 573, Hulftsdorp, Colombo 12.

☎ ලේකම් / செயலாளர் / Secretary ☎ කාර්යාලය / அலுவலகம் / Office

☎ (+94) 11 2446111

✉ jscinformaion@jsc.gov.lk

🌐 www.jsc.gov.lk

(+94) 11 2321104

(+94) 11 2433119 / 2451159

- ii. Magistrates are at their liberty not to entertain new complaints within the period commencing from 17th up to 20th March 2020 and Magistrates are requested to coordinate this aspect with the respective police stations.
- iii. All other hearings to be restricted to urgent and essential matters only, based on the applications made by the Parties and/or Attorneys-At-Law.
- iv. Wherever possible granting of bail or extension of remand period of suspects/accused in custody to be done through electronic means (e.g. video conferencing/skype etc...).
- v. During the period from 17th to 20th March 2020, no adverse/default orders to be passed in matters where Parties/Witnesses are absent.
- vi. As far as possible the requests for exemption from personal appearance of the suspects/accused to be considered favorably by Court.
- vii. Requests from Parties/Attorneys-At -Law/Witnesses for adjournments to be considered favorably during the above period.
- viii. Unnecessary crowding in the court cell should be curtailed by taking appropriate steps in consultation with the prison authorities.

Under the command of the JSC.


H.S. Somaratne

Secretary, Judicial Service Commission

16th March 2020

C.C: Hon'ble Attorney General – for information & necessary action

Secretary, Ministry of Justice – for information & necessary action

Acting Inspector General of Police – for information & necessary action

Commissioner General of Prisons – for information & necessary action

Secretary, Bar Association of Sri Lanka – for information & necessary action