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Ref: F.1/2/JS-NJPMC/LJCP
April 29, 2019

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Press Release

Today, i.e. the 29th of April, 2019, a Meeting of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa, Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman, NJPMC in the Committee Room of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad.

The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed, Senior Puisne Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan on special invitation. The meeting was also attended by the Hon'ble Members of the NJPMC including Hon'ble Chief Justice, Federal Shariat Court Mr. Justice Sheikh Najam-ul-Hassan, Hon'ble Chief Justices of the Provincial High Courts including Mr. Justice Ahmed Ali M. Sheikh, Chief Justice High Court of Sindh, Mrs. Justice Tahira Safdar, Chief Justice High Court of Balochistan, Mr. Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth, Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Mr. Justice Mr. Justice Sardar Muhammad Shamim Khan, Chief Justice Lahore High Court and Mr. Justice Athar Minallah, Chief Justice Islamabad High Court. Further, upon special invitation, the meeting also attended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Allama Dr. Fida Muhammad Khan, Alim Judge, Federal Shariat Court, Mr. Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, Senior Puisne Judge, High Court of Sindh, Karachi, Mr. Justice Qaiser Rashid Khan, Senior Puisne Judge, Peshawar High Court, Peshawar, Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Senior Puisne Judge, High Court of Balochistan, Quetta, Mr. Justice Aamer Farooq, Senior Puisne Judge, Islamabad High Court, Islamabad, Mr. Justice Mamoon Rashid Sheikh, Senior Puisne Judge, Lahore High Court, Lahore. Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) convened the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Sohail Nasir, District and Sessions Judge, Islamabad and Mr. Hayat Ali Shah, Director General Federal Judicial Academy, Islamabad on special invitation. Moreover, Ms. Irum, Ahsan, Leader alongwith Team Members i.e. Justice Robyn Layton, Zarizana Abdul Aziz, Saima Amin Khawaja, Samar Minallah Khan, Humaira Masihuddin, Cacilia Sicangco, also attended on special invitation. Furthermore, Ms. Valerie Khan alongwith team member Mr. Sharafat Ali Chaduhry, Advocate attended on special invitation too.

Mr. Sohail Nasir, Director General Monitoring Cell, presented details regarding the performance review of the Model Courts since inception of the said courts i.e. April 1, 2019 he informed the Committee that after counting of the number of closed holidays and strikes by lawyers the Model Courts have operated for fifteen days in which 116 Model Courts throughout the country have decided the total number of 2301 cases including

888 murder cases and 1413 Narcotics cases while statements of total number of 9715 witnesses were recorded. Similarly, Mr. Sohail Nasir informed that some of the Presiding Officers decided all the cases assigned to them under the expeditious justice initiative and that they may be given some assignment. The Committee directed that High Courts concern may administratively order such arrangements under which the judges who has zero pendency may be asked to tour other districts for disposal of cases.

The Committee also reviewed the progress of Police Complaint Redressal Mechanism in the country and showed satisfaction that during the period January to March 2019 the offices of the SP Complaints throughout the country decided around nineteen thousand complaints thus reducing the burden on courts. The Committee clarified that in the last NJPMC meeting 11-3-2019 it was decided that the High Courts and Sessions Courts may entertain applications/cases under section 22-A Cr.P.C, after the aggrieved person had exhausted the remedy before Complaint Redressal Center of Police Department and a copy of the order/decision of the SP (Complaints) of relevant district is to be appended with such a petition. On the suggestions and feedback received form the representatives of Bars/legal fraternity, the issue raised by the Bars representatives were addressed/ resolved with consensus in an amicable manner.

The Committee has resolved that an aggrieved person shall have a choice to approach either SP Complaints concerned or Justice of Peace directly or through a counsel who shall call a report from the concerned SP Complaints which shall reach Justice of Peace not later than 7 days. Where the justice of peace is approached he shall keep the matter pending for 7 days awaiting the report where after he shall decide the same in accordance with the law. As far as issues qua Model Courts are concerned, it was decided that case scheduling would be carried out with the consent of concerned lawyers. It would be made sure that all legal requirements are fulfilled as per law including manner of recording of evidence by the Presiding Officer.

This press release can be downloaded from the website, i.e. www.ljcp.gov.pk.

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29th April, 2019