



Hon'ble Chief Justice (Designate) Lahore High Court

My learned brother and sister Judges of the Lahore High Court,  
 Learned office bearers and members from different Bar  
 Associations,  
 Learned Judicial Officers, distinguished guests, ladies and  
 gentlemen.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Allah The Almighty in Surah Al-Maidah (Verse No.8),  
 ordains:

### QUOTE

اے ایمان والو! اللہ کے حکم پر خوب قائم ہو جاؤ انصاف کے ساتھ گواہی دیتے (ف ۳۶) اور تم کو کسی  
 قوم کی عداوت اس پر نہ ابھارے کہ انصاف نہ کرو انصاف کرو وہ پرہیزگاری سے زیادہ قریب ہے  
 اور اللہ سے ڈرو بے شک اللہ کو تمہارے کاموں کی خبر ہے

### UN-QUOTE

اس موقع پر میں اس ہستی کا ذکر کرنا لازم سمجھتا ہوں جس ہستی  
 کے بارے میں ربّ کریم نے سورۃ النسا آیت نمبر 59 میں ارشاد فرمایا  
 کہ:

### QUOTE

"اے ایمان والو! اللہ تعالیٰ کی اطاعت کرو اور اللہ کے رسول ﷺ کی اطاعت کرو اور ان لوگوں کی بھی اطاعت کرو جو تم میں سے صاحب امر ہوں۔"

### UN-QUOTE

2. The pre-amble of Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 clearly provides that:

"The sovereignty over the entire Universe belongs to Almighty Allah alone, and the authority to be exercised by the people of Pakistan within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust.

According to our constitution the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as pronounced by Islam, shall be fully observed, fundamental rights, including equity before law, freedom of belief, and independence of judiciary shall be secured and ensured. Rule of law and supremacy of the Constitution are two of the main pillars of any state. All the Institutions have to work for the rule of law and in this respect, it is their prime duty to remain within their spheres and never cross the limits prescribed by the Constitution and the law. Judiciary and the Bar have to play more important role for the supremacy of law and protection of Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. This is the only way for the progress of our nation, which will strengthen the country to rise and stand amongst other nations of the world.

3. As a head of the institution, keeping in view the above position, the divine duty is multiplied with administrative tasks. Correct policy decisions have long lasting flourishing impact upon the whole institution while incorrect decisions can frigid the system. When I took over as Chief Justice, I had a clear vision of improving the institution, humanizing litigation by curtailing delay, introducing latest techniques and practices in judicial system, moral and fiscal betterment of each and every person connected with it. Top among these was to improve abilities of judges of district judiciary by facilitating them to improve their knowledge. During this period although whole society was seriously affected with pandemic COVID-19, but we started training programs of the Judges through webinars. It is relevant to mention that on my initiation the Board of Directors of the Punjab Judicial Academy, allowed training of the Advocates and for them also through webinars training sessions were arranged.

4. For me, law is deep and vast ocean, whereas amendments, interpretations and new legislations are the ways, within which the judicial ship survives if it forecast these challenges and operates its machinery accordingly. Judicial precedents are best source to understand and comprehend the statutory provisions; best guidance for implementation of local laws and best assistance to know the latest interpretations of legislation. From the assessment of jurisdiction, till the execution of decrees, the judicial precedents discuss the back-up, reasoning

and logics which enhance their importance for educating the legal fraternity. As the district judiciary forms the foundation of this institution, therefore, their fair decisions and correct comprehension of law is imperative for delivery of justice to right persons at right time. I know that judges are burdened with cases. I always realized that it is hard for them to research for themselves. As no soft sources are provided to them on institutional level, therefore, it was decided to step forward, patronise the research Centre and under my supervision and directions, the citators of civil and criminal laws were prepared.

### **The Hon'ble Guests**

5. After taking charge as Chief Justice of this Hon'ble Court, the first and foremost challenge, I faced, was Covid-19. Thus I had to delicately strike a balance between safety of my Judges, Advocates, staff, litigants and the continuation of unhampered dispensation of justice. Therefore, decisions regarding exemptions and SOPs for work were issued from time to time. Despite this hard time, I feel proud to say that my judicial officers worked with full devotion. Their output remained remarkably good. According to the data provided to me, during the period from 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021, the number of decided cases of the Lahore High Court, principal seat as well as its benches was **one lac forty five thousand and fifty three (1,45,053)**. Similarly, according to the supplied data, throughout Punjab during the period

01.03.2020 to 19.06.2021, the number of decided civil and criminal cases of all categories was **twenty seven lac, eighty six thousand and forty eight (27,86,046)**. I may add that many of our judges and their families suffered from corona, but I may appreciate that they worked with complete devotion.

### **Hon'ble Guests**

6. Despite COVID-19 oriented limitations, I did my best to bring positive improvements and with that aim we got developed and provided computer automated system software for maintenance of record rooms, by which now all records can be found and checked by one stroke. Similarly, as there was noticeable delay in submission of challans of criminal cases, we generated a software for Senior Civil Judges (Criminal Divisions) through which it can be automatically checked that how many challans are not submitted in 15 days and where lies the problem. Other software, by which all the Registers maintained in the district judiciary, are to be computerized, will be available for implementation within couple of days. In the Punjab Judicial Academy, we trained the staff of district record room for maintenance of computerized record. Public Facilitation Centers have been established at District and Tehsil Headquarter levels to facilitate the litigants for getting copies of the FIR, Medical Legal Reports, Postmortem Reports and also to get verify the power of attorney. From these Centers people will be able to get complete information of the

cases. Recently, verification counter in the Lahore High Court has been established with the help of NADRA for verification of the National Identity Cards and Fard-Malkiyat. The scope of these Centers can further be extended. In addition to the above, IT equipment like heavy duty Scanners, Server and Storage, Internet firewall, LED Screens, video Conference Software, desktop computers and printers, etc. were purchased in very short span of time to establish E-Courts in ten Hon'ble Courts.

7. When we expect best results from our Judges and staff, we also need to facilitate them and with this objective, implementation of Special Judicial Allowance and then waiver of ceiling, and grant of utility allowance was also ensured. Many other projects, such as, transparent promotions and transfer policy, etc are in the pipeline. I tried my best for completion of these projects, but some still remain pending and I expect that the Hon'ble Designate Chief Justice will examine and consider the same for implementation.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

8. I also worked for the betterment/ extension/construction of judicial complexes, residences of the Judges as also for allied purposes in different districts of Punjab. One of the mega projects is extension of district courts complex of Multan, for which 20 kanal land stands transferred in the name of Lahore High Court. With the help of consultants, for construction of

12 stories high-rise masterpiece, the building plan has been prepared and approved. Budget has been allocated for its construction. Six kanal twelve marla land has also been transferred, where parking plaza, bar room and chambers for the Advocates will be constructed. Furthermore, about 25 kanal land has been transferred to the Lahore High Court for construction of judicial complex along with offices of the Advocate General, Attorney General and Prosecutor General, as also for parking plaza for the staff and Advocates. In about thirty stations, District Headquarters and Tehsil Headquarters, water filtration plants have become functional and are providing clean drinking water to the judiciary, Advocates and the litigants.

9. I was also aware of the difficulties of the overseas Pakistanis who are sending approximate remittance of 26 billion rupees, which is the backbone of our economy. Some Judges in district judiciary were nominated to decide the cases of overseas Pakistanis, within the parameters of law, as early as possible. A draft for legislation is with the Government in this respect.

10. To facilitate the litigants and Advocates and in order to provide justice at doorstep, I recommended to the Government of Punjab to establish Drug Courts at Dera Ghazi Khan, Sahiwal and Sargodha. Considering the workload one additional court at Lahore has also been recommended. I also

suggested the government to establish Special Court (Offences in respect of Banks), Service Tribunal and Environment Tribunals at Multan and Rawalpindi, to provide speedy justice and that too at doorstep, and the law department has agreed with the Registrar Lahore High Court for establishment of these courts and tribunals.

11. I was very keen to get establish commercial courts and for this purpose judges were notified for early decisions of commercial disputes, training sessions were held in Punjab Judicial Academy with the help of world bank, renowned legal and financial institutions and the scholars on the subject and I, continuously worked on this project. A draft was suggested to the government of the Punjab and ultimately the government promulgated the Ordinance for establishment of commercial courts. This visionary project was floated with an idea to speed up the decisions of business-related disputes with a hope that resolution of such disputes on priority basis will fetch confidence of business community in and outside the country and it will result in boosting up the economic growth of the country. These courts have already started functioning and it is expected that with early decisions of their disputes, the business activity will flourish, and foreign investment will increase, especially with reference to CPEC (Chine Pakistan Economic Corridor),

12. I will reemphasize that we are entrusted with a sacred task of justice. Judges as well as lawyers are equally responsible for administration and dispensation of justice in their own roles. So we all must acknowledge our roles as ultimately we are accountable not only to litigants but also for our own conscience. The voice of conscience never vanishes even if all masses of life vanish. We are also accountable for each word we speak & write and for each deed and act we do. We are accountable before Almighty Allah who is ultimate judge of this whole world.

13. I also appreciate and acknowledge the positive and wise role of my brother judges/sisters, especially Administration Committee fellows for strengthening me while taking important and difficult decisions. This task was not a bed of roses for me, this remained an uphill task, but the cooperation of my judges played a big part in accomplishment of the same with courage, brevity and dignity. At the same time, I am thankful to all the Bar Associations, as they extended maximum cooperation and got resolved their issues through dialogues and not by agitation. I have every reason to believe that noble norms settled by the bar councils during my tenure, must go ahead, because if we want to minimize the sufferings and pangs of the litigations, we have no other option as well. I am fully aware that the Hon'ble Chief Justice, designate, has the ability and capacity to reciprocate in the same terms, which

the bar councils extended to me. I did, or at least tried to do, what I could.

14. Last, but not the least, I pay tribute to my deceased father and am thankful to my mother, wife, Habib Muhammad (son), Barrister Aqeel Malik (son in law), Kashmala Khan and Noor Fatima (daughters), as they sacrificed, to give me maximum mental peace, which helped me a lot to make important judicial and administrative decisions with full peace of mind. I am also thankful to my brothers and sisters, as they continuously encouraged me in difficult times.

“May this institution live long and deliver justice as a big asset for our nation.”

Thank You.