



THE KERALA HIGH COURT ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION

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KHCAA/HC- 27/2021

From

President
Kerala High Court Advocates' Association

To

The Hon'ble Chief Justice,
High Court of Kerala

Respected Sir,

Sub: Discontinuance of e-filing system in accordance with the decision taken and conveyed to Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, Advocate General and Bar Council of Kerala in the respective meetings with the Administrative Committee chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Justice -reg-

The decision to discontinue e-filing system after 15 days or lockdown, whichever is earlier, which was taken in the above referred meetings has been conveyed to all concerned and now it has come to our notice that the same has not been issued as an order by the Registry of the High Court of Kerala so far. This is quite unfortunate and the continuance of both filing systems together is virtually creating a 'digital divide' and consequential problems. This Association is deeply aggrieved by the unilateral decision taken by High Court Administration for the continuance of the e-filing system which was explained in the meetings held on 17.5.2021 to the President of this Association and on 18.5.2021 to the Advocate General and Chairman of the Bar Council as a purely provisional arrangement for 15 days period. A change from 30 days in the initial draft document prepared for discussion to 15 days was made on the basis of the discussion held on 17.5.2021 afternoon with the President of the Association. It was assured in that meeting that the arrangement will not be continued at any rate beyond lockdown. But after



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the next days Judges meeting, this underwent a further positive change that '15 days or expiry of lockdown, whichever is earlier'. This change reveals that the Judges meeting felt the need for discontinuance of the e-filing system after '15 days itself without connecting the same to lockdown period'. This crucial decision is also unfortunately now discarded which sans justification.

Our sincere offer to co-operate with the "Functional Requirement Study" of the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology in the meeting held on 27.5.2021 is purely on the basis of the above understanding, the solemnity of which has never been doubted by us till date. But if the present stalemate continues, the High Court bar will be constrained to take appropriate decisions to protect the most genuine interests of our members. We will be constrained to take steps against the digital divide which has now been deprecated nationwide in the matter of the functioning of the machinery for dispensation of justice. Therefore, this association humbly requests the Hon'ble Chief Justice to act in strict adherence to the solemn promise given to the Association and authorities like the Chairman, Bar Council of Kerala and the Advocate General who is the head of the Kerala Bar and issue orders to discontinue the e-filing system without any further delay, as already the 15 days period has elapsed on 4.6.2021.

07/06/2021
Ernakulam

President
Kerala High Court Advocates' Association

