

**INAUGURATION OF
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE AND FAMILY COURT
AT TIRUCHIRAPPALI**

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH K. AGNIHOTRI
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE, MADRAS HIGH COURT**

13.04.2014 – 10.00 AM

My esteemed brothers Mr. Justice S. Rajeswaran and Mr. Justice B. Rajendran, Mrs. Yogamaya Agnihotri, Dr. Bhuvana Rajeswaran, Principal District Judge, Tiruchirappalli, Principal District Judge, Madurai, Principal District Judge, Ramanathapuram, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu National Law School, Mr. P. Panneerselvam, President, Tiruchirappalli Criminal Court Bar Association, Mr. S. Martin, President, Tiruchirappalli Bar Association, Mr. P. Suresh, Secretary, Criminal Court Bar Association, Dr. K. Arul, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Judicial Officers, learned advocates, media, ladies and gentlemen,

Kalai Vanakkam.

First of all, I feel sorry, on behalf of the Principal District Judge, for not providing cover to all of you and chairs under this scorching heat. How difficult it is to stand up? But at the same time, I thank you all, despite this sweat/scorching heat, no fans, you all are sitting for the last one hour, without

any disturbance. I would advise the Principal District Judge, *‘in future, if you cannot provide anything more, at least give cover and chair so that they can sit comfortably and with the help of their hands or some paper, they can give little air to themselves’*.

After hearing Mr. P. Panneerselvam, Mr. S. Martin and Mr. P. Suresh, I am sure, the Bar of this Court is very cooperative. They want really the dispensation of justice, not by litigation method only. As it is told we are here to live in happiness, in peace. We have to avoid litigation. But how to avoid? If there is some problem in the society, you have to take recourse to litigation. If there is problem in your body, you go to doctors. If there is any problem or some ailment in the society, you have to go to the Court. But now you have got a beautiful ADR building. Before going to the Court, come to this place, resolve your problems amicably, in congenial atmosphere.

While I was just having a view of your ADR building, I found that the Judges have been given Air Conditioners but not the other Section where people will come, sit, spend some time, tell their problems to the Judges there and other members. I must thank the Executive Engineer as he happily agreed to install Air Conditioners in all those halls and take away one Air Conditioner from the Judge Chamber and install there and further two three more air conditioners so that when you come there, you must feel comfortable, homely, friendly, in congenial atmosphere. You can express your problem freely unlike police

station. We are told, when you go to police station, you have lot of problems. You feel hesitant; most of the time, you feel like not going. But not here. Please come here in a comfortable atmosphere; in a cool atmosphere. Please express your problem, it will be resolved.

Now look, even the Sun, the scorching Sun, has started giving you cool breeze! This atmosphere you will have. You know among Gods and Goddesses, when there was some dispute, famous Narad Mani, he was the first Arbitrator/Mediator, he used to go to Gods and Goddesses. He used to resolve their problems. This is the effect of arbitration, mediation, conciliation. If our Gods and Goddesses can take recourse to arbitration, mediation, conciliation, why we cannot? We have to go. It is in all religions – whether it is Islam, or Christianity or Sikhism, the first method is arbitration. Yesterday, while inaugurating State Mega Lok Adalat, I referred the concept of Panch Parmeshwar. If five citizens, the senior citizens having pure soul, assemble together and take a decision, that is a decision of God – divine decision. That is the traditional concept we have to follow even today. You may not have five. But you will have two or one. If you go with the problem, they will, with all purified purpose, soul, look into that and they will resolve the problems.

Mr. Panneerselvam has given me a long responsibility by describing me Agnihotri means purified. I cannot do that but I will try to do what by this method, I can – to give you all purified pure dispute resolution here. But, for

that, you have to come here. I am sure that you all are so keen that our mission of dispute resolution will be successful. Most important thing, yesterday you all spent time in Lok Adalat from 11.00 am to 6.00 p.m. and today again you are here. It indicates your efforts and commitment for resolution of the problems.

With pride, I tell the achievement of this district. With cooperation of all of you, we have been successful to resolve to settle 31,203 cases. An amount of Rs.11,81,15,302/- has been disbursed. Your State has been the pioneer on the last occasion on 23.11.2013 being No.1. Within four months, you have attained the same feat. Yesterday, the entire State has settled 15,02,408 cases. The total amount disbursed is Rs.900,09,29,203/- ! It is really an achievement and I congratulate all of you – the entire State of Tamil Nadu – for this achievement.

All the facts figures and the concept of ADR, Mr. S. Martin has told to you. My message is only this: before going to the Courts, please come to ADR Centre for resolution of your dispute - the long-drawn dispute, which can be resolved in one or two sittings.

I have inaugurated the Family Court today with the help of brothers Mr. Justice Rajeswaran and Mr. Justice B. Rajendran. But at the same time, I expect that there should not be crowding there. Family problems must be resolved in ADR building with the cooperation of senior members, family members and other members. This 125 years' old Court has magnificent building. While

coming here, I was shown the building. This Court has a tradition and if you go by tradition, you have additional duty to maintain it. There may be some problems among the Bar members and the judiciary but you please remember, we have a tradition we have to keep it up. We have to maintain it. We have to nurture it and as such we have additional responsibilities.

With these words, I express my gratitude to all of you.

Nandri Vanakkam.