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SPEECH BY SHRI M.B. KURUP, ADVOCATE GENERAL OF KERALA

May it please your Lordships, the Hon'ble Chief Justice, My Lords companion Judges, Mrs. Justice K.K. Usha, Justice P.A. Mohammed, Justice P.K. Balasubramanian, the President of the Kerala High Court Advocates' Association Barrister Joseph, My Learned colleagues at the Bar, ladies and gentlemen,

1. We have assembled today to congratulate your Lordships Mrs. Justice Usha, Additional Judge of our High Court on her appointment as a permanent Judge and also Mr. Justice P.A. Mohammed and Mr. Justice P.K. Balasubramonian on their well merited elevation to the Bench.

My Lord Mrs. Justice K.K. Usha during the short span of her service as an Additional Judge of the High Court has earned the appreciation and goodwill of the Bar and the Public as a learned and good Judge with unfailing patience, courtesy and dedication. Her judgements reveal her wide reading and deep learning in all branches of law. Having dealt with several jurisdictions she has proved her worth and meritorious attainments as a good Judge. While congratulating her on her confirmation as a permanent Judge we wish her all success and still greater glory.

Both the Hon'ble Judges were having acting practice about a quarter century and more and they are experienced in every branch of law. They are popular and of amiable disposition and they are well known for their erudition and knowledge of law. Let me on behalf of the Law Officers of the State and the Bar and on my own behalf offer Mr. Justice P.A. Mohammed and my Lord Mr. Justice P.K. Balasubramanian a hearty and affectionate welcome to the exalted office. May God Almighty bless you with everything good and make your term a grand success.

Mr. Justice P.A. Mohammed hails from a remote village Parambayil in Tellicherry. He belongs to an old aristocratic agricultural family and his father was an officer in the State Revenue Department. After qualifying for degree in the Arts College at Brennan

College, Tellicherry, your Lordship was appointed as an Officer in the Indian Airlines at Bombay for some time. A short time afterwards his Lordship resigned that job and joined the Law College. After qualifying for Law, your Lordship started practice under Justice V.Khalid who was sometime a Judge of our High Court and later Kashmir and in the Supreme Court of India. His Lordship picked up practice in no time and your Lordship was specialising in Tax matters, Service matters and cases under the Citizenship Act. In the Land Reforms Act your Lordship has gained abundant proficiency. Your Lordship's family consists of wife Smt. Amcena and son Mohammed Rafeek qualifying for LL.M. and Daughter Sajila Latheef.

Mr. Justice P.K. Balasubramanian is a native of Chittoor in the erstwhile Cochin State and after taking degree in the Chittoor Arts College, continued his studies in Madras Law College and qualified for law. For a short time Mr. Justice Balasubramanian was an apprentice under the former Advocate General of Madras Sri.K.Raju. He started his career in the High Court under a reputed lawyer Sri.T.S. Venkiteswara Iyer in the year 1966. Sri. Venkiteswara Iyer breathed his last after a glorious career for half a century or more and Mr. Justice Balasubramanian was continuing his office in full charge after his demise, at the time his elevation to the Bench was announced. Mr. Justice Balasubramanian had a very busy and lucrative professional career and his erudition and knowledge of law was recognised by this Hon'ble Court in a Division Bench Case. He was appointed by the Division Bench in the case known as *Mocchakundu Forest case*. Reference has been made in glorious terms in the judgment of the Division Bench. Mr. Justice Balasubramanian was the Standing Counsel for the Food Corporation of India and the State Bank of India. He was the counsel appointed to assist Justice Sukumaran Commission in a protracted and fact finding enquiry of complex issues enquiry regarding the Edamalayar and Kallada Project. On the question of interpretation of the provisions of the Kerala Land Reforms Act Mr. Justice Balasubramanian argued before the Full Bench in very many cases and his services were acknowledged. Mr. Justice Balasubramanian has acquired complete proficiency in Civil Law in general. His family consists of his wife Smt. Geetha, 3 boys and 2 girls and the eldest son is studying in the Law College.

May God Almighty bless you.

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