

**Speech for the Full Court Reference of late  
Justice G.D.Kamat, Former Chief Justice of  
Gujarat High Court  
by Justice F.M. Reis, Senior Judge,  
High Court of Bombay at Goa**

**My esteemed colleagues, Justice Sanklecha, Justice Bhadang and Justice Wadane, Former Judges of this Court, Mr. Advocate General A.N.S Nadkarni, Mr. Valmiki Menezes, President of the High Court Bar Association, the members of the Executive Committee of the Association, Senior Advocates and Members of the Bar, Mrs Kamat and members of Justice Kamat's family, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**We have assembled today to make a reference to the sad demise of Justice G.D. Kamat, a former Judge of this Court and the Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court.**

**It is very difficult to encompass in a few words the variegated and distinguished career of an eminent jurist. His lifespan of four scores symbolized significant achievements at each important stage, bringing honour and glory not only to himself but also to this institution which he served and the State of Goa in particular. Born on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1935, late Justice Kamat completed his scholastic education from People's High School in Panjim and completed his graduation in Arts in the year 1957 from Bhavan's College in Mumbai and thereafter obtained his Law degree in the year 1960 from the Government Law College in Mumbai. He practised for a brief period in Mumbai after being enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Maharashtra and thereafter started his practice as a lawyer in the State of Goa from the year 1964 until his**

**elevation in the year 1983. Justice Kamat was an eminent advocate who maintained the rich traditions of the Bar and was known for his dedication to his brief and fairness to his colleagues.**

**He was also the standing Counsel for the Customs and Central Excise for the Government of India as well as the Secretary and thereafter the President of Goa, Daman and Diu Advocates' Association.**

**He was associated with the Goa Football Association, being an ardent sports lover, a member of the Faculty of Law of the Bombay University besides being a trustee of People's Education Trust, and later the Vice-President of Salgaonkar Law College Society.**

**His legal acumen was well recognised as Justice Kamat was elevated as the first Goan Judge from the Bar in the year 1983. He soon made a mark and impressed everyone with his sharp intelligence and desire to do justice.**

**He was a distinguished Judge of this Court, his knowledge of all branches of law and his intellectual expositions of the principles of Law as well as his strong views in the administration of justice were reflected in his judgements and orders.**

**Justice Kamat was instrumental in passing different judgements while interpreting various provisions of Succession Law as found in the Portuguese Civil Code, the local laws in force in the State of Goa including the Mundkar Act and the**

**Agricultural Tenancy Act, the Rent Control Act which disclosed his brilliance in the fields of law. Justice Kamat earned a great reputation for fairness and adherence to Constitutional and legal provisions. He commanded respect both from the Bar as well as the Bench. Late Justice Kamat, as a judge of this Court acted in equal measures of ability and honesty and always exhibited an anxiety to do justice according to the rule of Law. His contribution to legal jurisprudence will be long remembered. Justice Kamat was appointed as the first Goan Judge to be the Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court in July 1996 where he administrated the Court with decisiveness and great sense of proficiency.**

**Even after his retirement, he was keenly associated with the administration of justice by accepting Arbitrations and taking keen interest in the Lok Adalats which he presided very frequently even as late as December 2014. Justice Kamat was a warm and friendly person who could mix with one and all on even terms. He was unassuming, unpretentious and affable person. His death is a loss not only to the members of his family, but also to the large number of friends and admirers. He was held in high esteem and respect by the legal fraternity of Goa and Maharashtra. His life was full of vigour and diligence until almost the last date. All that remains now is the memory of the work he did in this Court and diverse other fields.**

**On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I extend to Mrs. Kamat and to his son, Ninad, who is a practising advocate and to his daughter, Mrs. Natasha Vatsa, and all the other members of his family, our heartfelt condolences in their hour of sorrow. May his soul rest in peace.**