

ADDRESS BY VALMIKI MENEZES, PRESIDENT,
GOA HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION, AT THE REFERENCE
IN COURT FOR LATE MR. JUSTICE G.D. KAMAT, HELD ON
31ST MARCH, 2015.

My Lord Justice Reis, Justice Sanklecha, Justice Bhadang, Justice Wadane, Advocate General, Former Judges of the High Court, Mrs. Kamat, Ninad, family members, friends of Kamat, J. and my esteemed colleagues gathered today. The untimely demise of Justice G.D. Kamat has left us all grieving and sad. We have lost in him, a superb judge, a colleague, a mentor and a friend. A perfect gentleman with a big heart. Known to his colleagues, our senior members of the Bar as DAS, and affectionately referred to as "GDK" by the later entrants to the legal profession. Before his elevation to the Bench, Justice Kamat was a leader of our Bar and I understand, from my elders that he was a leader of Goan Students Union in Bombay, prior to liberation of this territory from Portuguese Rule.

The late 80's and early 90's saw a large number

of young entrants to our Bar. We were at times lost in Court, often in a hurry or impatient due to our lack of experience. Justice Kamat was like the perfect guide, mentor and Guru to an entire generation of young lawyers during this period. Always coaxing us to argue in what we perceived to be a safe, calm and just environment, which was how his Court Room always felt to us. A thorough gentleman, firm and yet that smile never left his face. This sense of humour was legendary. Court rooms often see volatile tempers and aggressive behaviour; Justice Kamat had an uncanny knack of defusing such piquant situations with his wit and intelligent sense of humour, leaving everyone with a smile. Being aware of a very public space that a Court Room is, he never hurt any lawyer or Court staff and his judgments are a reflection of this philosophy. He always endeavoured to bring about an amicable and honourable end to a litigation and where this approach was not possible, his judgments carried it a very humane approach to deciding the controversy between parties.

We share in his families grief and with your process of coping with his loss. The memory of his ever smiling face, like the radiance of the sun, will always have a warm place in our hearts. May his soul rest in peace.