

Mr. Attorney, Mr. President,

I am grateful for the warm welcome accorded to me and also for the kind sentiments expressed by you in this august gathering. I also wish to thank all those who are present here today and to all who have done the needful to arrange this ceremonial sitting.

It is an immense honour, not just a mere pleasure for me to start my new career as a Judge of the Court of Appeal and I know that the passing the miles of this challenging journey will not be that much easier. I am answerable to the people of this country and also, I am aware that I am personally responsible for maintaining the high traditions of the judiciary. I am confident that I would be able to contribute my best to the upliftment of the prevailing judicial system.

As I realized, in discharging the duties and responsibilities incumbent on judges, we should look only the letter of the law and the spirit of the law and nothing else. Political, economic or social considerations, as opposed to legal considerations, simply do not enter into the equation. Judges should not achieve anything in accordance with popular wishes or favours. In Diga Nikaya, Lord Buddha made an observation relevant to those who discharge the judicial functions in the following

manner. ‘If a person maintains justice without being influenced by favouritism, hatred, fear or ignorance, his lustre grows like the waxing moon’.

As judges what should we keep in mind is that we can’t make the law, but find it or declare it. However, the way we arrived at a decision may be different from one another.

A famous American Judge, Benjamin Cardozo once remarked that ‘the eccentricities of judges balance one another. One judge looks at problems from the point of view of history, another from that of philosophy, another from that of social utility; one is a formalist, another a latitudinarian, one is timorous of change, another dissatisfied with the present; out of the attrition of diverse minds, there is beaten something which has a constancy and uniformity and average value greater than its component elements’.

Mr. Attorney, Mr. President,

I’m grateful to all the Chief Justices under whom I had rendered my services, for providing me better working atmospheres throughout this long journey to this High Office.

I wish to pay my gratitude to my parents and my family who are the pillars of my success. I pay my gratitude to my beloved father Mr. S. B. Karalliyadde, for his exemplary commitment and guidance towards my future well-being which shaped me into the person who I am today. Even though, he is unable to grace this occasion due to ill - health, I know that his blessings are always with me. My beloved late mother Mrs. Lakshmi Karalliyadde, who had encouraged me to join the judiciary would have been the happiest and the proudest person in the world had she lived. Her loving kindness and sacrifices put me into the right direction. Without her support and guidance, any attempt in my life would not be satisfactorily completed at any level.

I wish to thank my beloved wife Thusitha, who always walked with me side by side and gave me the courage and strength to meet all challenges both in my personal and professional life and my beloved daughter Shakya, for supporting and encouraging me with lots of love, affection and patience in achieving my goals and ambitions.

I greatly appreciate and pay my gratitude for the encouragement and support rendered to me by my wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Y. B. Pussedeniya. Their contribution towards my success is enormous.

I pay my gratitude to my two brothers, Arjuna, Lilantha and sister Janaki and my wife's brother Chandana and sister Deepthi and all the members of their families who are always concerned about my success and for being with me encouraging me to meet all challenges in my life.

I should not forget to appreciate the guidance I received from my late uncle, Procter L. B. Karaliyadde to lay the foundation in the legal field to be the person who I am today. I wish to thank all my relatives, friends and people in my professional life for the consistent encouragement and support I received from them. It is a very difficult task to mention all their names, but they are extremely precious to me.

I should mention that I am deeply indebted to my Alma Mater, St. Sylvester's College, Kandy and my teachers at the school for the discipline and ethical values that inculcate in me.

Last but not least, I express my deep gratitude to the Sri Lanka Law College, which created and nurture me into this momentary world and also for the law college batch of 1987 for their warm friendships which are prevailing even up to this day.

Finally, I thank all of you once again for your presence and patience for making this occasion a memorable one for me.

May

Triple

Gem

bless

you

all!