



**THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL**

PUBLIC NOTICE

7th November, 2017

No. HCM/A-1/93-A&E(MJS) Pt-I1. The High Court of Manipur is presently making recruitment for appointment to the posts of Manipur Judicial Service Grade-III. As part of the recruitment process, the interview has been scheduled to be held in the premises of the High Court of Manipur on 11th and 12th of November, 2017.

It has been brought to the notice of the High Court that some local newspapers have carried news items today, i.e., on 7.11.2017 stating that certain organisations have expressed their opinions that non-locals should not be allowed to take part in the interview or the recruitment process. While certain views have been expressed demanding non-participation or consideration of non-locals in the recruitment process to the MJS Grade-III, it is unfortunate to note that warnings have been also issued to the effect that the High Court of Manipur and other authorities will face consequence for such recruitment process.

The High Court of Manipur has considered the matter and has taken serious note of the same and is of the view that while one may be free to express his or her opinion/view on any public issue as part of his/her right to freedom of speech and expression as guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution of India, it is to be remembered that such fundamental rights are also subject to reasonable restrictions. Further, if such acts or deeds interfere or tend to interfere with the administration of justice in any manner, it may attract criminal contempt proceedings as provided under the Contempt of Courts of Act, 1971. "Criminal contempt" has been defined under Section 2(c) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 as follows:

"2. Definitions.-.....

(a).....

(b).....

(c) "criminal contempt" means the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which---

(i) scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or

tends to lower the authority of, any court; or

(ii) prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or

(iii) interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner."

Publication of such articles which is contemptuous or scandalises or which lowers the authority of the High Court by any newspaper or media may also attract the provisions of Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

It is also to be noted that the High Court is the highest judicial authority in the State of Manipur discharging the sovereign judicial power of the State and the Judiciary is an indispensable part of the democratic institutions, upholding the rule of law. The independence of Judiciary has been also declared to be a basic feature of the Constitution of India and every citizen and organisations or institutions or authorities functioning in this country are to uphold the rule of law and the Constitution of India and respect the independence of judiciary, as otherwise it will seriously undermine the Rule of Law and the Constitution.

The High Court of Manipur is the custodian and is primarily tasked with the responsibility of upholding the rule of law in the State of Manipur and cannot countenance any such act by any person or organisation to interfere with the functioning of the High Court of Manipur.

It is accordingly informed that if any person or organisation is aggrieved by any action of the High Court or with the recruitment process in issue, it is open to them to approach the appropriate forum for redressal of their grievances but not by issuing any public statements containing threat/intimidation or warning to the High Court.

All the concerns are accordingly advised not to interfere with the functioning and administration of justice as otherwise, it may attract appropriate proceedings under the law.

A. Guneshwar Sharma
(A. GUNESHWAR SHARMA)
REGISTRAR GENERAL
HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
