

REFERENCE MADE BY THE HON'BLE SHRI M.B. SHAH, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY, TO LATE JUSTICE VILAS VINAYAK KAMAT, FORMER JUDGE OF BOMBAY AND KERALA HIGH COURTS, ON MONDAY, 8TH DECEMBER 1997.

My learned Brother Justice Agarwal, Mr. C.J. Sawant, Advocate-General of Maharashtra, and Chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Mr. R.A. Dada, Additional Solicitor-General, on behalf of the Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Dilip Bhosale, President of the Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr. A.A. Kajji, President of the Incorporated Law Society, learned Members of the Bar, Ladies & Gentlemen,

We have assembled here this morning to mourn the sad and untimely demise of Mr. Justice Vilas Vinayak Kamat, a former Judge of this High Court and a Sitting Judge of the Kerala High Court, who passed away on the 26th of November 1997.

Late Justice Vilas Kamat was born on 27th March 1937; was educated at Alibaug, and for higher education he shifted to Bombay. He passed M.A. in 1958 and LL.B. in 1959 from Bombay University. After law graduation, Justice Vilas Kamat was enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Maharashtra on 7th August 1961. He joined the Chambers of Shri Shete, a leading practitioner in criminal matters. After about two years, he joined the Appellate Side Bar of this High Court. He was appointed Assistant Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor from 1972 to 1981. He was also a Part-time Professor of Law in Siddharth College of Law and K.C. College of Law from 1972 to 1978. By sheer dint of hard work and industry, he earned good reputation and acquired large practice.

On 24th May 1989, he was called to adorn the seat of this Court; became permanent Judge on 15th May 1990; and for three years he worked at the Aurangabad Bench.

Justice Kamat was transferred to the Kerala High Court on 29th April 1994. I am told that he delivered trend-setting judgments in Tax matters and Law of Limitation while at the Kerala High Court. He enjoyed good reputation both at Bombay and in Kerala. **It must be said to his credit that Justice Kamat never sacrificed principles of law. In the passing away of Justice Kamat, we have lost an endearing personality. He will always be remembered with affection by all who knew him.**

On behalf of myself, my learned Brothers and Sisters, and all of you assembled here, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.
