

**Farewell speech by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Augustine George Masih, Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court on the eve of retirement of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandra Kumar Songara, Judge Rajasthan High Court on 28.08.2023 at 03.45 PM through Video Conferencing.**

My Esteemed Colleagues on the Bench

Shri Mahendra Singh Singhvi,  
learned Advocate General, Rajasthan

Shri Kapil Prakash Mathur,  
Vice Chairman, Bar Council of Rajasthan, Jodhpur/Jaipur

Shri Ranjeet Joshi  
President, Rajasthan High Court Advocates Association,  
Jodhpur

Dr. Nikhil Dungawat  
Vice President, Rajasthan High Court Lawyers Association,  
Jodhpur

Shri Mahendra Shandilya  
President, Rajasthan High Court Bar Association, Jaipur

Shri Kamal Kishore Sharma  
President, The Jaipur Bar Association, Jaipur

Learned Senior Advocates

Learned Members of the Bar

Members of Judicial Service and Registry

Madam Mrs. Pushpa Songara and other dignified family members.

Ladies & Gentlemen.

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1. We have assembled here this afternoon to bid a warm and affectionate farewell to our esteemed colleague brother Justice Shri Chandra Kumar Songara on the eve

of his demitting the office after rendering 35 years of spotlessly clean and meritorious services to Judiciary.

2. After taking over charge as Chief Justice of this great Institution, I consider it a matter of great pride and honour to share the words of goodwill, best wishes and the invaluable contribution made by brother Justice Songara to the administration of justice.

3. Brother Justice Songara was born on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1961 in Bikaner in the family of late Shri Moda Ram Ji, a renowned petition-cum-deed writer. After completing his graduation in Commerce from Jain PG College, Bikaner in 1980, he obtained the Degree of Law in the year 1984 from Government Dungar College, Bikaner. He thereafter did his PG Diploma in Labour Laws, Labour Welfare and Personnel Management in 1985 and was conferred with Degree in Masters of Law by the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur in 1991.

4. Justice Songara initially started his career as a Probationary Officer in Bank of Baroda at Surat, but thereafter setting the goal of serving the people of the State and imparting justice, he answered the call of public service and appeared in the process of recruitment to the Rajasthan Judicial Service. After selection in his maiden attempt, he joined as Additional Munsif & Judicial Magistrate at Jalore on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1988. He was promoted

to the Rajasthan Higher Judicial Service on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2002. The High Court in due course recognized his remarkable qualities of head and heart, which is evident from the coveted postings offered to him, such as Special Judge, CBI, Jaipur, Family Court, Sri Ganganagar, District & Sessions Judge, Karauli, Bhilwara and Jodhpur.

5. During his entire service career Justice Songara showed learning, proficiency and excellence in serving the cause of justice and this commitment to work eventually saw him appointed as Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. We can, therefore, say that he joined this Court with wide judicial and administrative experience.

6. I got an opportunity to share the Bench with brother Justice Songara today, but prior thereto in my brief interactions with him during last few months, I found him to be very sincere, hardworking, punctual and a painstaking Judge with a keen desire to do complete and real justice. He treated all with same standard, without bias or favour. In the discharge of his duties not only as a Judicial Officer, but also as a Judge of this Court, he displayed great zeal, diligence, dedication, devotion, commitment and had a very pragmatic approach. Throughout his judicial career he has exhibited patience,

open-mindedness, courtesy, firmness and humility, which are the main attributes of mature judicial temperament. With his knowledge and wisdom he has remarkably and efficiently discharged his duties as a Judge of this Court. That apart, he has been kind and generous to the budding lawyers of the Bar and always encouraged them to improve and develop their skills. His ability to manage his Court coupled with his intellectual caliber and court etiquette soon earned him great admiration.

7. It is said that a Judge must have the grace to hear patiently, to consider diligently, to understand rightly and to decide justly with a sense of humanity and brother Justice Songara more than meets this test. He always endeavored to dispense expeditious justice to the litigating parties.

8. Apart from making a significant contribution and an indelible mark on judicial side, brother Justice Songara has always been willing to take responsibilities on administrative side also. Whatever task was entrusted to him, he carried out the same with due diligence, perfection and that too without compromising upon his judicial time and functions.

9. Brother Justice Songara has penned down several important judgments on varied subjects of law, which are supported by sound reasoning and detailed consideration

of aspects of the case. They bear the shadow of his caliber, intellectuality and brilliant analytical judicial mind and are shining in the Law Journals.

10. Brother Justice Songara has also shown deep concern for providing cheap, speedy and qualitative justice to the poor, needy, downtrodden and weaker sections of the society. For the notable, excellent and distinguished services rendered by him for development of rule of law and upholding high traditions, the High Court shall always remain grateful to him.

11. We on the Bench and I am sure, the members of the Bar would also greatly miss brother Justice Songara's presence in the Court. He is parting company with us today, but only as a sitting Judge of this Court. He shall always be in our hearts as a member of this family. I am confident that even after retirement he will continue with same commitment and spirit to serve the cause of justice and humanity and would always be eager to lend his helping hand whenever this Institution requests for.

12. Before concluding, I would like to convey our sincere thanks and best wishes to the family members of brother Justice Songara, especially his wife Smt. Pushpa Songara, son Rahul and daughter Garima. I am sure now he would be able to spend more quality time with them. He would be now free to pursue his passions and hobbies.

13. I, on behalf of my brother and sister Judges and on my own behalf, take this opportunity to wish brother Justice Songara a long, healthy, happy and fulfilling life ahead and good luck in all his future endeavours.

THANK YOU.