

JSC/SEC COR: 3 (i)

**To: All High Court Judges and All Judicial Officers**

1. Further to the circular No: JSC/SEC COR: 3, dated 26.03.2020, I have been directed by the Judicial Service Commission to issue the following directives having considered the prevailing situation in the country with the aim of releasing suspects/accused's languishing in remand who can be released on bail, in terms of the applicable laws.
2. The Judicial Service Commission has noted that some of the bail applications/ bail inquires/bail matters have not been considered or taken up for inquiry during the period curfew was in force. Therefore, all High Court Judges and Magistrates are hereby directed to take up all such matters preferably on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.

In this regard, you may take steps to coordinate matters, both with the local branch of the Bar Association and the State Counsel prosecuting in the respective High Courts, wherever necessary.

3. Bearing in mind the need to give effect to the government guidelines on "social distancing", all High Court Judges/Judicial Officers should endeavour, wherever possible, to use electronic means to communicate with the Attorneys-At-Law of the parties and the State. However, the presence of the parties may be dispensed with.

Under the command of the JSC.

  
H.S. Somaratne

Secretary, Judicial Service Commission

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### Taking Up of Bail Matters

**The Judicial Service Commission on 30.03.2020, decided to issue the following directives to all High Court Judges and Judicial Officers.**

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H.S. Somaratne

Secretary, Judicial Service Commission

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**C.C: Hon'ble Attorney General – for information & necessary action**

**Secretary, to His Excellency the President - for information & necessary action**

**Secretary, Ministry of Justice – for information & necessary action**

**Acting Inspector General of Police – for information & necessary action**

**Commissioner General of Prisons – for information & necessary action**

**Secretary, Bar Association of Sri Lanka – for information & necessary action**