

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

This file relates to the proposal for appointment of Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto, Additional Judge of the Manipur High Court, at present functioning, on transfer, in the Gauhati High Court, as Permanent Judge.

We have perused the recommendations made by the Collegium of the Gauhati and Manipur High Courts vide Minutes dated 15th December, 2017 and 12th February, 2018 respectively. We have also perused the communications received from the Constitutional authorities in the concerned States, in particular the State of Manipur, placed in the file.

In order to ascertain suitability of Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto, we have consulted our colleagues who are conversant with the affairs of the Manipur and Gauhati High Courts. Copies of letters of opinion of our consultee-colleagues received in this regard are placed below.

The Committee constituted in terms of the Resolution dated 26th October, 2017 of the Supreme Court Collegium, after going through the judgments of Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto has submitted its report. A copy of the said report is placed below.

Taking into consideration the material on record, including the recommendation of the High Court Collegium, views of our consultee-colleagues and the report of the Judgment Evaluation Committee, the Collegium finds Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto, Additional Judge, suitable for appointment as Permanent Judge.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto, Additional Judge, be appointed as Permanent Judge of the Manipur High Court. It is needless to clarify that Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto would continue to function in Gauhati High Court.

We have also taken note of the observations of Department of Justice made in the file with regard to proposal for transfer of some other High Court Judge to Manipur High Court in view of depleted strength of Judges in that High Court. The proposal for transfer, in terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, would be considered by the Collegium comprising the Chief Justice of India and four senior-most Judges of the Supreme Court, in due course of time. In the meanwhile, the above recommendation for appointment of Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto as Permanent Judge may be processed expeditiously as his term as Additional Judge is going to expire shortly on 13th March, 2018.

(Dipak Misra), C.J.I.

(J. Chelameswar), J.

(Ranjan Gogoi), J.

March 06, 2018.

