

**JUSTIFICATION LETTER FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN**  
**FOREST LAND**

I am to state that as per the G.O. No.719/Rev.(L2) Department dated 02.08.1996, 4.00 acres of land in S.No. 480/3 of Udhagamandalam Town and Taluk was allotted to the Judicial Department for construction of Combined Court Complex at Kakkathope, Udhagamandalam. The possession of land was handed over on 30.08.1996.

As per the G.O. Ms. No. 455 Home (Courts III) Department dated 22.05.2017, the Judicial officers, P.W.D. Officials conducted a joint inspection at the proposed site for analyzing the various requirements for the Combined Court Complex. On Behalf of District Administration, the D.R.O. also joined the Inspection Team.

During the Inspection, one of the important aspects noticed was the lack of proper road access to the proposed Combined Court Complex and lack of proper parking facility. The proposed site on its South-East side is situated very close i.e. at about 250 meters from the Ooty-Mysore National Highway. The site is situated on the Eastern side of Government Polytechnic. A deviation road from the National Highway on the Polytechnic road ends at about 50 meters from the proposed site on the Eastern side. There is a patch of Reserve forest for about 50 meters interlocking the end of the road and the proposed site. Every member in the Inspection team suggested that, if a road is formed by connecting the Combined Court complex through the small patch of Reserve Forest to the Ooty-Mysore Road National Highway, the same would solve the biggest hurdle posed to the proposed Combined Court Complex at Kakkathope, Udhagamandalam. An area of about one acre is required for the said purpose.

Further, the team inspected the revenue land in S.No. 480/3 on the Western side of Combined Court Complex for formation of alternative road from the Finger Post-Kulisolai road. The Combined court Complex is situated at about 2-1/2 Kms from the main junction at Finger Post. The said road is very narrow and congested passing

through densely populated area in both sides. Every member in the Inspection Team agreed that the road cannot be considered as a main access road to the Combined Court Complex.

In this regard, I wish to enlighten the following aspects to emphasize the requirements of a Good and Shorter Access Road to the Combined Court Complex from the Ooty-Mysore National Highway at Kakkathope, Udhagamandalam:

**1) STATISTICS OF COURTS AND PENDING CASES:**

**At present the following Courts are functioning in Udhagamandalam:**

1. District Judge-cum-Chief Judicial Magistrate Court.
2. Sessions Judge, Fast Track Mahila Court, Udhagamandalam.
3. Family Court, Udhagamandalam.
4. Sub-Court, Udhagamandalam.
5. Judicial Magistrate's Court, Udhagamandalam.
6. District Munsif's Court, Udhagamandalam.
7. The Special Court for Land Grabbing Cases, Udhagamandalam.
8. Additional Mahila Court, Udhagamandalam.
9. Labour Court, Udhagamandalam.
10. District Legal Services Authority, Udhagamandalam.
11. Permanent Lok Adalat, Udhagamandalam.
12. Mediation Centre, Udhagamandalam.

At present 4400 cases are pending in the Courts in Udhagamandalam. On average 600 cases are taken up for hearing on everyday. Apart from the above cases, large number of miscellaneous applications for bail, remand, etc., are taken up for consideration before the said courts.



For the above cases, litigants, witnesses, sureties, and other department officials associates have to appear before the courts. On an average, 500 to 1000 such people have to attend the Combined Court Complex everyday.

Apart from the above courts, the Nilgiris District consumer redressal forum and Juvenile Justice Board are also functioning in Udthagamandalam.

An unbridled access is a vital requirement for the above people to attend the court on regular basis.

## **2) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE REDRESSAL CENTER DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY AND LOK ADALATS:**

Now, the ADR mechanism is gaining momentum all over the country. Already, the District ADR Centre has been constructed and functioning in the campus. But, due to lack of proper access, the public are not approaching the mediation center. Hence, the benefit of ADR mechanism is not reaching the general public of the District. Lok Adalats are being conducted on regular basis in the present District Court Complex. Various kinds of dispute like bank cases, matrimonial cases, land dispute cases, cheque cases, motor accident claims, etc., are taken up in the Lok Adalat. Both pending litigation and pre-litigation matters are taken up and settled immediately. Large number of people attend the Lok Adalat and get their relief settled. An easy uninterrupted access is most vital requirement of the Public to put into use the benefit of such institutions.

## **3) ADVOCATES & BAR ASSOCIATIONS:**

At present , 200 Advocates are practicing in Udthagamandalam and more than 200 Advocates are practicing at Mofussil Towns of Coonoor, Kothagiri, Gudalur and Pandalur. The Advocates of Udthagamandalam have their Offices located in Ooty Town. The Advocates in Mofussil Towns appear before District Level Courts for cases of higher Jurisdiction and for various criminal cases. The Professional and public litigants need speedy access to the Courts for attending the court work in time.

Further, the advocates have to conduct the District Level meetings and functions at the Bar Association Hall in the proposed Combined Court Complex. Hence, the Advocates and litigant public from all over the district have to come to the district head quarters for all their works. Hence, good and easy access to combined court complex is mandatory requirement for the advocates of this district and litigant public and other department officials including forest officers.

#### **4) JUDICIAL STAFF:**

At present, there are 265 Staffs working in the courts of Udthagamandalam. The Staffs are having their residence in the Ooty town and surrounding villages. About 50% of the Staff are female. At times, due to pressure of work, the staff have to work additional hours during the evenings. In order to reach the office on time and as the lady staff have to move out of the office in the evening hours easily, a good road access to the combined court complex is an important requirement.

#### **5) JUDICIARY AND POLICE:**

The police are connected with the judiciary in all aspects. There are 12 police stations under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Magistrate Courts, Udthagamandalam. The Police officials from the above stations have to attend the courts for all their works. The Police need uninterrupted access throughout the day and night to produce the accused and remand the prisoners before the Magistrate. Accused in sensitive cases are brought to the court in police vans with tight security along with patrol and riot control vehicles. Hence, good road access to have fast, safe and uninterrupted access to the Courts is a vital requirement for the police. Further, there are totally 38 police stations in the district. The police officials from all over the district have to attend the District Court, Chief Judicial Magistrate court, Sessions Courts and Magistrate Courts. In the Combined Court Complex in time and returned to the respective stations and jails etc., some of which situated out of the district without difficulty. Further, the police department and Chief Judicial Magistrate conduct periodical crime meetings. The Police officials and Judicial Officers from all over the district have to attend the meetings.



#### **6) JUDICIARY AND FOREST DEPARTMENT:**

Like the police department, the Forest Department is also very much connected to the Judicial Department. There are 5 forest rangers under the jurisdiction of Judicial Magistrate's Court, Udhagamandalam and there 23 forest rangers all over the district. Like the police officials, the rangers, District Forest Officers have to attend the Combined Court Complex for court related works and meetings, and to file Wild Life Protection Act cases and other related Criminal offence cases in Judicial Magistrate court and Sessions Court. At present morethan 70 cases related to forest offences are pending in various courts in Udhagamandalam

#### **7) JUDICIARY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT:**

All the state and central departments like Revenue, Labour, Plantation, Drug Inspectors, Co-operative Department, State Transport Corporation, Railways, Wellington Cantonment Board, Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu are directly or indirectly connected to the Judiciary and hence they have to come to combined court complex to attend their cases.

The District Judge is the Statutory appellate authority for the disputes arising in most of the above department.

#### **8) FUTURE REQUIREMENTS:**

Considering the above particulars it is observed that on regular working day 1000 to 1500 people have to commute to the Combined Court Complex. Approximately around 400 vehicles (including police vans and buses) would be used by the Judges, Government Authorities like Police, Revenue, Forest etc., Advocates, Staffs and litigants to reach the court.

Already proposal for constitution Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court by bifurcating the existing District Judge-cum- Chief Judicial Magistrate Court is pending with Government and proposals for constitution for Additional Judicial Magistrate Court and Special Court for trial of POCSO Act cases and construction of vulnerbale victim and deposition centre are under process.

Further, 8 (Eight) Judicial Officers Quarters and Guest House for Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court of India and various High Courts are also proposed to be constructed in the land adjacent to this newly constructed Combined Court Building.

Considering the increase in population and usage of vehicles in future, a reasonably Good and Broad Road connecting the Combined Court Complex with the Main Highway is an essential requirement.

#### **9) JUDICIAL ACADEMY AND TRAINING:**

The Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy is periodically conducting and imparting Training on Various Environmental and Forest related laws in the Nilgiris District. Judicial Officers from all over the State would be visiting the Combined Court Complex during the Training Sessions.

#### **10) VISITS OF V.I.P'S:**

Udhagamandalam invites esteemed Judges from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the High Courts all over the Country. During their stay at Udhagamandalam, the Lordships would make visits to the Combined Court Complex at Udhagamandalam. Further, the Judges of Hon'ble High Court, Madras make routine visits for various official works.

Hence, a good approach road from the National Highway is necessary requirement for the proposed Combined Court Complex which is poised to be become one of the most vital Institutions connecting to the every day life of the litigant public of the District.

The requirement for a good and shorter access road to the Combined Court Building at Kakkathope from the nearby Ooty to Mysore National Highway to the knowledge of Hon'ble High Court's Official Memorandum in ROC No. 3956/1192/D2 dated 14.11.2017, the Hon'ble High Court approved the above requirement and has directed to proceed further in this matter.

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Hence, considering the circumstances stated above, I request to kindly take all possible efforts to provide an Access Road from the Eastern Boundary of the site for Combined Court Complex for about 50 meters through the patch of interlocked forest area to the Municipal Road which is connected to the nearby Ooty-Mysore National Highway.

  
**DISTRICT JUDGE-CUM-  
CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE  
THE NILGIRIS AT UDHAGAMANDALAM.**

  
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