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CHIEF JUSTICE ADDRESS AT **PUNJAB BAR COUNCIL**

LAHORE, FEB 15, 2014

Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial has said that under Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Judiciary is answerable to the people and have responded to this obligation through dispensation of justice. Hon'ble Chief Justice was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Secure Identity Cards for Advocates in the Punjab Bar Council.

Hon'ble Chief Justice said the role of Bar was imperative in the disposal of cases as Judges could not deliver judgments without assistance of Bar and quality of decisions also revolved on the quality of arguments advance by the lawyers. Chief Justice said that he believed in the strengthening of institutions and Bar was also an important institution and wished it more strong.

Hon'ble Chief Justice said that the district judiciary has successfully achieved the target set by National Judicial Police Making Committee for clearing the backlog of cases and it was a healthy sign that 35 districts of the Province have cleared backlog of old cases and only the district of Lahore was lagging behind in this regard. Hon'ble Chief Justice stressed that city of Lahore by virtue of its importance should be a role model for other districts. Hon'ble Chief Justice said that about 50 percent of cases could see light of the day through administrative measures like categorization, distribution of cases etc. and bifurcation of Lahore Courts into two Sessions Courts was a step with this end in view. It was purely an administrative matter for better management of cases and not meant for the division of Bar. Hon'ble Chief Justice desired the Bar could extend help in this task. Hon'ble Chief Justice appreciated the gesture of Bar by saying no to culture of strikes. Hon'ble Chief Justice also lauded the efforts of Punjab Bar Council with the assistance of NADRA for issuance of Smart Cards to the advocates which will help eliminate fake lawyers who were a stigma on the face of the Bar. **(MEDIA CELL)**