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BAR ASSOCIATIONS OF FIVE DIVISIONS **CALL ON CJ LHC**

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Chief Justice of Lahore High Court (LHC), Lahore, Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial has said that LHC attaches great importance to ideas of Bar Associations and their professional attitude in this regard is always welcomed. Hon'ble Chief Justice said this while talking to a delegation of Bar Associations of Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Sahiwal, Sargodha and D.G.Khan divisions. Mr. Justice Sheikh Najam ul Hasan, Mr. Justice Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Mr. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Registrar Sardar Ahmad Naeem were also present on the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Justice congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the said Bar Associations and said that issue of establishment of LHC benches at their divisions was a sensitive one and a three-member committee of LHC judges having grip over the matter has already been constituted who is doing its thought provoking job and its report is expected by the end of this month. Hon'ble Chief Justice also underlined the need for providing quality justice at the first court level of the judicial hierarchy.

Mr. Justice Sheikh Najam ul Hasan said that there should be a proper ground work before creating new LHC benches. Mr. Justice Manzoor Ahmad Malik asked the delegates to say no to strike culture because it aggravates the problems of the litigant public. Mr. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan said that there was need to set parameters on the basis of criteria, distance, pendency, cost of litigation etc. for evolving consensus on more benches.

Bar representatives assured assistance to the courts while raising their voice for new benches and requested an other meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Justice in the first week of March after submission of report by the said committee. **(MEDIA CELL)**