HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH:: AMARAVATI

ROC.NO.139/SO/2026 **Date.17 .04.2026**

CIRCULAR NO. 04/2026

Sub: High Court of Andhra Pradesh – Order Dt.05.02.2026 in Criminal Appeal No. 701 /2026 (arising out of SLP (Crl.) No. 18886 of 2025) – Directions regarding informing the accused of their right to legal representation and entitlement to legal aid – Certain instructions – Issued – Reg.

Ref: Order Dt.05.02.2026 in Criminal Appeal No. 701 /2026 (arising out of SLP (Crl.) No. 18886 of 2025) of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

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It is hereby informed that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in it's Order Dt.05.02.2026 in Criminal Appeal No. 701 /2026 (arising out of SLP (Crl.) No. 18886 of 2025) has issued specific directions to all trial Courts to ensure that every accused is duly informed of his/her right to legal representation and also of the entitlement to be represented by a legal aid counsel in cases where the accused is unable to afford a private counsel. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further directed that the offer made to the accused in this regard, the response of the accused and the consequential action taken shall be recorded in the proceedings/orders of the Court before commencement of the examination of witnesses.

Accordingly, all the Judicial Officers dealing with criminal matters in Andhra Pradesh, are hereby directed to invariably record in the docket sheet that the accused was specifically enquired as to whether he/she has sufficient means to engage a counsel to defend his/her case. In cases, where the accused expresses inability to afford a counsel, the Court shall ensure that a legal aid counsel is provided to the accused, and such appointment shall be clearly reflected in the docket proceedings. Further, where the accused states that he/she is unable to engage a counsel of his/her choice, the same shall also be recorded. Only after compliance with the above procedure, the Court shall

proceed to the next stage of trial, including commencement of examination of witnesses.

All the Judicial Officers shall adhere to the above instructions scrupulously. Any deviation or non-compliance in this regard shall be viewed seriously.

REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL)
17/4/26.

To:

1. The Registrar (I.T. cum C.P.C.) with a request to direct the concerned to upload the said circular in the High Court's website.
2. All the Unit Heads in the State of Andhra Pradesh, with a request to cause circulation of the same among all the Judicial Officers working in their respective units.

PRINCIPAL DISTRICT COURT: EAST GODAVARI
AT RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM DATED 17.04.2026

Hon'ble High Court's Circular No.04/2026 in ROC.No.139/SO/2026, Dated 17.04.2026

// C O M M U N I C A T E D //

18.4.26

PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE.

To
All the Judicial Officers in the Unit of East Godavari.

Copy to
The System Officer (I/c), Principal District Court, Rajamahendravaram with a direction to upload the same in the District Court's Official Website.

Dis. 3879
18.4.26.