

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

The Chief Justice and I have recently inspected various Supreme and District Court Registries and have also visited certain Magistrates' Courts during our recent tour. There is a definite improvement in the work being done but we were both most disappointed to find that those in charge of the various Registries and offices have not in all cases personally seen that the staff entrusted with the preparation of statistics understand the circulars which have been sent from time to time. For example in one of the States we find in the Supreme Court Registry, the District Court Registry and the Magistrate's Court Registry a very serious state of affairs regarding criminal statistics and the Chief Justice is of the opinion that the staff in those Registries have obviously not read nor given effect to my No. 2 in RSC 17/47 of 18th January, 1947. They have been assigning a case number to each charge brought with the result that there has been a gross exaggeration of the number of cases shown as having been tried. It is difficult to understand why this state of affairs has been persisted in. Each criminal case is a trial and a trial must have a case number. It does not matter how many charges are brought against the accused; if he is tried at one time in one case, that case must have a case number. One case we saw related to 9 charges brought against an accused under the Food ^{Control} Proclamation. The clerk, notwithstanding that there was only one trial, or case, had numbered each of the 9 charges as a criminal case thus showing in his return 9 cases having been tried instead of only one case, in which the accused was tried on 9 counts and in the particular state referred to all cases have been similarly treated.

- (1) Please read my No. 2 in RSC 17/46⁴⁷ of 18th January, 1947 and study the examples.
- (2) Please see that each case or trial is given a number
- (3) The number of cases can have no relationship to the number of charges brought.
- (4) Please detach the slip annexed hereto after having given effect to this circular and sign it and return it to me.

The Registrar,
Supreme Court, M.U.,
Kuala Lumpur. 7th June, 1947.

M. ...
REGISTRAR.

..... Court,

, 1947.

To: Registrar,
Supreme Court, M.U.,
Kuala Lumpur.

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I certify that I have read Registrar's Circular No. 13 of 1947 of 7th June, 1947 and that I understand it and that I have instructed my staff to act in accordance with the terms thereof.

District Judge.