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JAWATANKUASA PEGUAM PULAU PINANG PENANG BAR COMMITTEE

Circular 13/20

1 May 2020

To Members of the Penang Bar,

Prime Minister's Announcement on Conditional Movement Control Order and Allowing Economic Sectors to Resume Business

We refer to the Prime Minister's announcement this morning on the Government's decision to allow many economic sectors to resume business on 4 May 2020, subject to conditions and standard operating procedure (SOP) under a Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO), the details of which are yet to be announced.

Pursuant to this announcement, we have been receiving queries from members of the Penang Bar, inter alia:

- whether the Courts and other Government agencies and authorities i.e. the Stamp Office, Land Registry and Land Offices nationwide will resume operations on 4 May 2020;
- what happens to cases that have been rescheduled during the 4th Phase of the Movement Control Order (MCO) as per our Circular Court Liaison 15/20 dated 28 Apr 2020;
- whether legal firms are still required to apply to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) before they are allowed to resume operations;
- whether legal firms who had already applied to MITI and obtained the approval to operate can now disregard that approval;
- what SOP should be adopted and put in place by legal firms in their offices during the CMCO period; and
- whether there is a limit to the working hours and number of personnel permitted to be present at any one time in the office during the CMCO period

At the time of issuing this Circular, we are still attempting to obtain the relevant information from the respective authorities and also verify whatever that is being circulated via social media so members can be rightfully notified and informed. We appreciate that most members are anxious to resume work while at the same time ensure that any SOP and social distancing rules put in place are complied with as the Covid-19 pandemic is still not over.

We therefore request for members' patience and understanding while we attempt to obtain confirmation from the relevant authorities. We hope to update members once we receive the necessary information.

Lee Guan Tong
Chairman