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JAWATANKUASA PEGUAM PULAU PINANG PENANG BAR COMMITTEE

Circular 18/20

21 May 2020

To Members of the Penang Bar,

Penang Bar Committee Subscription for 2020

The Penang Bar Committee is cognisant of the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing Movement Control Order (MCO) and Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) may have long-term consequences on members of the legal profession and their respective legal practices.

Following the Malaysian Bar's decision to reduce its Annual Subscription and some levies, the Penang Bar Committee embarked on a thorough study to consider the Penang Bar's financial position and standing as well as the relevant provisions of the Legal Profession Act (LPA) 1976. We also considered implementing cost-cutting measures and identifying alternate income generation to minimise any losses that may be suffered from a reduction of Subscriptions collected.

We also wish to note that our records show the Penang Bar Subscription rate was increased from RM190-00 to RM200-00 in the year 1999 following a Resolution passed by Members at the Penang Bar Annual General Meeting (AGM) that year, and has not been increased since then.

After careful consideration and deliberation, we hereby notify Members that the Committee has decided to reduce the Subscription for the year 2020 only from RM200-00 to RM180-00 while the Subscription for the year 2021 shall revert and be maintained at RM200-00. Although a reduction of 10% or RM20-00 may seem small, we nevertheless hope it helps to alleviate any financial burden faced by our members to some extent. It should also be noted that this reduction makes up a substantial amount of the total income and finances of the Penang Bar for the year and the Committee will be undertaking necessary steps to minimise any negative impact to the Penang Bar's funds.

Members who have yet to pay the 2020 Penang Bar Subscription are therefore requested to do so before 30 June 2020 pursuant to Section 73 (i) of the Legal Profession Act 1976. The mode of payment and related details are as follows:

1. The 2020 annual Subscription for each member is RM180.00 and payable to the 'Penang Bar Committee'. For online fund transfer, our bank account details are: Public Bank Berhad Account No: 3060545211.
2. Members who pay via online fund transfer are requested to notify the Secretariat **immediately** upon payment via e-mail (secretariat@penangbar.org) or fax (04-262 8664) that payment has been made so your transaction can be traced and confirmed as being received. We often find that some members fail to notify us that they have paid and this causes grave inconvenience to maintaining of our accounting records. We therefore urge members to provide the relevant notification promptly and without fail.

3. Members who have already paid RM200-00 as Subscription for 2020 prior to issuance of this Circular:
- (i) If you wish to request for a refund, notify the Secretariat via e-mail to secretariat@penangbar.org with the Subject "Refund of 2020 Penang Bar Subscription" before 31 Jul 2020 and provide the following information:
- Bank account details
 - Subscription Certificate/Receipt reference number
 - Name(s) of member(s)
- The Secretariat will attend to requests for refunds within 2 weeks.
- (ii) No action is needed from Members who do not require refunds.
- (iii) The reduction of RM20-00 cannot be carried-forward or deferred to the 2021 Subscription in accordance with our standard accounting practices.
4. From 2016, the Certificate and Receipt are merged into one common document known as the "SUBSCRIPTION CERTIFICATE/RECEIPT" which contains relevant details such as the subscription amount paid, name of lawyer, name of firm and payment particulars. Kindly take note that this Certificate/Receipt is to be submitted to the Bar Council for 2021 Sijil Annual and Practising Certificate applications.
5. From 1 Apr 2019, the Secretariat no longer issues hard copies of the Subscription Certificate/Receipt. Members are to provide your latest and current e-mail address when making payment (be it via online fund transfer, cash or cheque) to enable the Secretariat to send the Subscription Certificate/Receipt via e-mail. If you fail to receive the Certificate/Receipt via e-mail within 2 weeks after making payment, kindly notify the Secretariat.

For further information and to confirm your payment status, kindly contact our Secretariat staff Nur Habibah Abdul Jallil or Charmaine Rodrigues at 04-261 5669.

Thank you.

Ravi Chandran
Secretary