



Tel : 04-2615669
Fax/Tel : 04-2628664
E-mail : secretariat@penangbar.org
Website : www.penangbar.org

No. 4. Green Hall,
1st Floor,
10200 Penang,
Malaysia.

JAWATANKUASA PEGUAM PULAU PINANG PENANG BAR COMMITTEE

CPC 9/20

13 May 2020

To Members of the Penang Bar,

Update: Directive from Pejabat Tanah dan Galian Pulau Pinang on New Norms for Counter Operations at Pejabat Tanah dan Galian Pulau Pinang

Further to our previous Circular CPC 8/20 regarding the above Directive, the Subcommittee wrote to the Pejabat Tanah dan Galian Pulau Pinang (PTG Penang) on 12 May 2020 and expressed our strong objections and also provided constructive feedback to their decision to disallow client's account cheques for payments at the Penang Land Registry and Land Office as part of the new norms introduced by PTG Penang for its operations. In our letter we provided a host of reasons as to why cash payments, bank drafts and cashiers orders are not practical in the current climate of safety and social distancing and we proposed online banking via FPX or JomPay as an additional or alternative mode of payment to client's account cheques.

This morning we received unofficial confirmation by way of *Whatsapp* from PTG Penang's Deputy Director of the Registration Department, Encik Syazmin Baharom Shah that the earlier directive to disallow cheques has been retracted and reversed, and PTG Penang will once again accept client's account cheques for transactions by legal firms with immediate effect.

PTG Penang has also informed us that they will provide a set of Guidelines to ensure there are no further incidents of dishonoured cheques from legal firms and they seek members' cooperation and compliance with regard to this at all times. The Committee takes this opportunity to emphasise that members can be subjected to disciplinary proceedings for issuing dishonoured cheques due to insufficient funds in their client's accounts.

The CPC Subcommittee will continue to engage PTG Penang in discussions on other related issues involving the Land Registry and Land Office, and we will update members as and when we receive any updates.

Zemilah Mohd Noor
Chairperson
Conveyancing Practice Subcommittee