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JAWATANKUASA PEGUAM PULAU PINANG PENANG BAR COMMITTEE

Court Liaison 17/23

12 Oct 2023

To Members of the Penang Bar,

Outcome of the Meeting with the Director of the Penang State Courts on 10 Oct 2023

The Penang Bar Chairman, Carolyn Oh, Bar Council Representative, Ravi Chandran, Penang Bar Committee Members, Gowri a/p Subbaiyah, Anbananthan a/l Yathiraju and Muhammad Arif Shaharuddin recently met with Dato' Haji Nasir Bin Nordin, Director of the Penang State Courts on 10 Oct 2023.

Members are requested to take note of the following issues that were discussed and feedback received from the Court, namely:

Issues	Remarks
Magistrate of the Georgetown Magistrate's Court (Civil) is on indefinite Medical Leave	The Director of the Penang State Courts, Dato' Haji Mohd Nasir Bin Nordin informed the Committee that Puan Dianee Ningrad binti Nor Azahar, Senior Assistant Registrar of the Penang Subordinate Courts will hear all cases and applications. The effective date of the above will be informed by Puan Dianee in due course.
Long Mention dates in Butterworth Court for Criminal cases due to delay in obtaining Chemist's Report	The Committee was informed that mention dates could not be shortened as there is a clear indication from the Chemist Department that Reports will take at least 4 months to be completed and released.
Georgetown Magistrate's Court 1 (Criminal) : Calling Up matters before the actual pre-fixed dates	The Committee informed Dato' Haji Mohd Nasir Bin Nordin that there are feedback from our Members where the Magistrate of the Georgetown Magistrate's Court 1 (Criminal) has been calling cases earlier than the pre-fixed time and date, without informing the Counsels. Dato' Haji Mohd Nasir Bin Nordin took note of the issue and assured the Committee that he will look into this matter and ensure that proper notification be given to the counsels concerned.
Removal of Glass Barriers at the Penang Subordinate Courts	Dato' Haji Mohd Nasir Bin Nordin informed the Committee that a direction was given by the Office of the Chief Registrar not to remove the Glass Barriers for Subordinate Courts. The Committee has decided to escalate this matter to the Bar Council Court Liaison Committee to take it up with the Office of the Chief Registrar.
Operations of Balik Pulau Sessions Court	As Members are aware, the additional Sessions Court at the Balik Pulau Court Complex, Penang has resumed operations on 2 Oct 2023. <u>Criminal Cases</u> Old registration case number for Criminal cases will be maintained but heard at the Balik Pulau Sessions Court. A list of the cases will be forwarded to the Committee in due course.

	<p><u>Civil Cases</u> Court Interpreters of such relevant cases will be calling Members to inform about the transfer of their cases. The old registration case numbers for Civil cases will also be maintained.</p>
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Members are advised to take note on all of the above.

Members will be further updated as and when we receive additional information from the Courts.

Carolyn Oh
Chairman
Court Liaison Subcommittee