

# **Advocates Association of Sarawak**

## The President's Report

For the year 2023

Delivered at the Annual Delegates Conference 2023

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### **Introduction**

1. I am pleased to present the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of the President. The 1<sup>st</sup> Report was delivered to all members by email on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.
2. At this juncture, it would be opportune to remind ourselves that this is the Annual Delegates Conference – where the importance of this conference is entrenched in our **Constitution under Clause 25 (a)** where it reads:-

“The Delegates Conference shall constitute the supreme authority of the Association”
3. The Association through the Central Committee and the Branch Committee undertakes a wide range of activities in accordance to the Objects and Powers of the Association as set out under **Clause 3 of the Constitution**. The members would note that some activities have propelled the Association into the sphere of international recognition and cooperation with international bars on issue of corresponding relevance to our practice here in Sarawak.

### **Central Committee Meeting**

4. I chaired the following meetings of the Central Committee:-
  - a. The 1<sup>st</sup> Central Committee Meeting held on 13.01.2023;
  - b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Central Committee Meeting held on 20.05.2023;
  - c. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Central Committee Meeting held on 27.06.2023; and
  - d. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Central Committee Meeting held on 28.10.2023.
5. The Association also had a number of other meetings which were called to attend to urgent matters which include the discussions towards the petitions for admissions, ad hoc petitions etc.
6. The Association also utilizes the Central Committee Chat Group as a means to discuss and decide on certain matters. Thereafter, the issues decided upon shall be ratified in the Central Committee Meeting.

### **Administration of the Association**

7. The members would note that at present, the Association is operating the Bar Room in the Miri Court Complex where the President is predominantly

practicing. We are grateful to the Association's Miri Branch in welcoming the Central Committee's use of its Bar Room, and we also acknowledge the assistance and the support rendered to the Central Committee over the years.

8. The Association operates through the Secretariat. The Secretariat comprises of the Honorary Secretary Mr David Teo, the Assistant Secretary Ms. Christine Lim and Ms Ina from the Bar Room – these individuals are the bedrock to the Association, where they manage the day-to-day functions of the Association, a role which includes a wide range of responsibilities from reviewing of the papers submitted for your Practicing Certificates to organizing the meetings/engagement sessions and following up with the relevant authorities/court on pending matter.
9. I cannot stress how important the role of the Secretariat is to the Association, and I would like acknowledge their hard work and unwavering commitment to the Association.
10. The tasks completed by the Secretariat is listed in the Honorable Secretary's Report.
11. On the status of legal practice of our members, I am pleased to report that there were 1073 practicing certificates issued in 2023, whereas the Roll of Advocates have reached 1885
12. The Bar Room in Miri has employed the following support staff:
  - a. Razina Binti Jinal - Salary RM2,200.00
  - b. Melissa Audrey Binti Vincent Buyun - Salary RM1,500.00
13. The Association's Branches consist of the Kuching Branch, Sibul Branch, Bintulu Branch and Miri Branch – where the branches operate their own bar rooms to cater for their respective members. The report of the Chairman of each individual branch shall be tendered during the ADC and thereafter, it shall be incorporated into this report for circulation to all members

### **Subcommittee Reports**

14. The following sub committees was set up in the 1<sup>st</sup> Central Committee Meeting:-
  - i. Criminal Law Practice - Boston Ho Teck Howe
  - ii. Civil Law Practice – Gurvir Singh Sandhu
  - iii. Conveyancing Practice - William Ting Siew Chon
  - iv. E-Law - Tonny Hii Yik
  - v. YBGK/Young Lawyers - Christine S. H. Lim
  - vi. Legal Aid/Law Awareness – Bartholomew Lopez
  - vii. Industrial Law/Labour - Liew Tang Chieh
  - viii. Practice & Etiquette Advocacy - Desmond Sahathevan

- ix. Continuing Legal Education - Eric Lau Lian Jing
- x. Sports - Ma Seong Yui
- xi. Syariah Law - Benny Zaidy Bin Jalil
- xii. Native Customary Law – Janting Antalai
- xiii. Personal Injury - Lee Jin Wen

15. I am pleased to report that the subcommittees have been active this year and the subcommittee's reports shall be tendered at the ADC and thereafter, it shall be incorporated into this report for circulation to all members.

### **Meetings/Functions attended by the President**

16. The following are the engagements of the Association attended by the President:-

#### **DECEMBER 2022**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	20.12.2022	Attended IKM Sarawak Chemistry Night 2022 – Annual Dinner in Kuching
2.	21.12.2022	Attended AIAC Meeting  Attended Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan dan Mesyuarat Lembaga Pengarah Yayasan Bantuan Guaman Kebangsaan  Mesyuarat Agung Luar Biasa Yayasan Bantuan Guaman Kebangsaan
3.	22.12.2022	Attended Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pemantauan Pusat Mediasi Covid-19 Bilangan 5 Tahun 2022

#### **JANUARY 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	07.01.2023	Attended Meeting with the Law Society of Hong Kong and LawASIA
2.	08.01.2023	Attended Bar Leaders Roundtable discussion, Lunch and Dinner in conjunction with OLY Putrajaya in Putrajaya
3.	09.01.2023	Attended Opening of Legal Year 2023 in Putrajaya
4.	12.01.2023	Tripartite Bar Meeting in Pullman Hotel Miri involving the Sabah Law Society, the Bar Council and the Association

5.	13.01.2023	Opening of Legal Year of the High Court of Sabah & Sarawak in Miri
6.	14.01.2023	Attended and delivered a welcoming speech at the National Symposium on Islamic Banking in Pullman Hotel Miri
7.	16.01.2023	President's Roundtable of the Occasion of the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year Hong Kong
8.	20.1.2023	Attended Meeting with YB Ram Karpal in Kuching Court on the air-conditioning issue

### **FEBRUARY 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	03.02.2023	Attended AAS Bintulu Branch Annual Dinner at Ming Yen
2.	07.02.2023	Attended Bintulu Court Chinese New Year Open House 2023
3.	08.02.2023	Attended sesi libat urus bagi membincangkan cadangan pertimbangan polisi berkaitan pindaan Akta Kesalahan-Kesalahan Seksual Terhadap Kanak-Kanak 2017 [Akta 792], Akta Keterangan Saksi Kanak-Kanak 2007 [Akta 676], dan Akta Keterangan 1950 [Akta 56]
4.	08.02.2023	Dinner with the Bar Leaders in Brunei
5.	09.02.2023	Attended Opening of legal Year 2023 Brunei
6.	10.02.2023	Attended Majlis Makan Malam Mahkamah Miri
7.	22.02.2023	Attended Meeting on Post Winding Up Case Assignment & Execution Proceedings with the Registrar of the High Court of Sabah & Sarawak

### **MARCH 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	05.03.2023	Commonwealth Law Association Annual General Meeting
2.	07.03.2023	Attended Bei Hai Asia International Arbitration Centre Meeting in Kuching

3.	09.03.2023	Discussion on Computation of Remand with the Registrar of the High Court of Sabah & Sarawak
4.	10.03.2023	Attended Yang Arif Tuan Dean Wayne Daly's son wake in Kuching
5.	17.03.2023	Attended Sesi Libat Urus Fasa Bersama YB Tuan Ram Karpal Singh berhubung Akta Kesalahan Keselamatan Langkah-Langkah Khas (SOSMA 2012) at AIAC Building
6.	18.03.2023	Attended Malaysian Bar Annual Dinner at Majestic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
7.	23.03.2023	Attended Meeting with Sarawak Business Event on future AAS seminars
8.	27.03.2023	Attended Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kaedah Kaedah Bil 1/2023 at Palace of Justice, Putrajaya

#### **APRIL 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	06.04.2023	Courtesy call to YAA Tan Sri Dato' Abdul Rahman bin Sebli with AAS Central Committee at Kuching Court  Attended Majlis Berbuka Puasa with YAA Tan Sri Dato' Abdul Rahman bin Sebli at Kuching Court
2.	11.04.2023	Attended Bengkel Hala Tuju Perkhidmatan Bantuan Guaman bagi kes-kes jenayah at AIAC
3	13.04.2023	Attended Sesi Taklimat Sijil Digital Bagi Pengguna Sistem E-Kehakiman Sabah Dan Sarawak
4.	28.04.2023	Attended National Workshop on effective Defence in Death Penalty Cases by the Malaysian Centre for Constitution and Human Rights (MCCHR)

#### **MAY 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	10.05.2023	Attended Meeting on ASEAN Law Association of Malaysia 40 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
2.	12.05.2023	Attended Meeting with YB Dato' Syarifah Hasidah on the setting up of ADR services in Sarawak

3.	13.05.2023	Attended Workshop on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Management in Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, Kuching
4.	23.05.2023	Bar & Bench dialogue on EKSS with the Registrar of the High Court of Sabah & Sarawak
5.	26.05.2023	Niah Conservation Program with Tan Sri CJSS
	27.05.2023	Piasau Nature Reserve Program with Tan Sri CJSS  Attended CJSS's Welcoming Dinner organized by AAS Miri Branch at Mercure Hotel Miri

### **JUNE 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	09.06.2023	Attended Eco-Marine Closing Ceremony between Petronas and Sarawak Forestry Corporation in Pullman Hotel, Miri
2.	12.06.2023	Meeting Mesyuarat Pelaksanaan Bantuan Guaman Kepada Pesalah yang Menjalani Hukuman Pemenjaraan Sepanjang Hayat organized by YBGK
3.	16.06.2023	Mesyuarat Secara Dalam Talian Bagi Membincangkan Penetapan Fi Bagi Court Assigned Counsel Bagi Kes-Kes Hukuman Mati Berikutan Pindaan Undang-Undang Terkini organized by the Registrar of the Federal Court

### **JULY 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	06.07.2023	Mesyuarat Penyediaan Mekanisme Bagi Pelaksanaan Hukuman Gantian Terhadap Hukuman Mati Mandatori Bil. 5/2023 By BHEUU
2.	07.07.2023	Attended CJSS's Welcoming Dinner organized by AAS Sibu Branch at Tanah Mas Hotel, Sibu.
3.	13.07.2023	Sesi Libat Urus Bersama Kementerian/ Agensi Kerajaan dan NGO/ CSO Mengenai Cadangan Pindaan Fasa Kedua Akta Keterangan Saksi Kanak-Kanak 2007 [Akta 676] dan Cadangan Pindaan Akta Keterangan 1950 [Akta 56] by BHEUU

4.	19.07.2023	Attended Dinner with ABA Roli at Lepau, Kuching
5.	20.07.2023	Attended a Talk on the History and Development of the Constitutional Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in the United States organized by AAS Kuching branch and ABA Roli at Meritin Hotel, Kuching
6.	21.07.2023	Attended Sesi Libat Urus (Perbincangan Kumpulan) dan Mesyuarat Task Force Perundangan mengenai isu provokasi melibatkan kaum, agama dan raja (3R) di Malaysia in AIAC Building, Kuala Lumpur
7.	24.07.2023	Mesyuarat Kumpulan Kerja Perkhidmatan Perundangan di bawah Jawatankuasa Bersama Bagi Kerjasama Perdagangan Dan Pelaburan Dua Hala Antara Malaysia dan United Kingdom (UK) pada 24 Julai 2023 between BHEUU & UK stakeholders
8.	27.07.2023	Briefing on the Integration of eKSS and eKF2 (COA & FC) by the Office of the Registrar of the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak  Msyuarat bagi membincangkan mekanisme Pelaksanaan Hukuman Gantian Terhadap Hukuman Mati Mandatori Bil 3/2023 by BHEUU
9.	29.07.2023	Attended and participated in Sibul Bar Judiciary Games organized by AAS Sibul Branch in collaboration with Kelab Mahkamah Sibul in Sibul

### **AUGUST 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	01.08.2023	Attended CJSS's Welcoming Dinner organized by AAS Kuching Branch at Waterfront Hotel, Kuching
2.	08.08.2023	Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kerja Bagi Meratifikasi of The United Nations Convention On International Settlement Agreements Resulting From Mediation Dan Meminda Akta-Akta Yang Berkaitan/ Menggubal Akta Baharu Berkaitan Pengantaraan Bilangan 1 Tahun 2023 By BHEUU
3.	09.08.2023	Attended Awareness Training On Artificial Intelligence In Court Sentencing Sabah & Sarawak (Aicos) by the office of the Registrar of the Sub-Court of Sabah & Sarawak
4.	17.08.2023	Attended YBGK Exco Meeting

5.	26.08.2023	Attended and moderated at the Asia Alternative Dispute Resolution week 2023 at AIAC building in Kuala Lumpur.
6.	30.08.2023	Attended Consultative Committee on Industrial law Meeting in Kuala Lumpur

### **SEPTEMBER 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	11.09.2023	Pelaksanaan Hukuman Gantian Terhadap Hukuman Mati Mandatori Bil 5/2023
2.	12.09.2023	Attended Program Libat Urus LHDN Sarawak at Kuching
3.	15.09.2023	Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kecil Bagi Meratifikasi The United Nations Convention On International Settlement Agreements Resulting From Mediation Dan Meminda Akta-Akta Yang Berkaitan/ Menggubal Akta Baharu Berkaitan Pengantaraan Bilangan 1 Tahun 2023

### **OCTOBER 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	01.10.2023	Bar Leaders Discussion in conjunction with the Opening Legal Year UK in London.
2.	02.10.2023	Attended UK Opening Legal Year in Westminster, London.
3.	03.10.2023	Seminar with the Judiciary in conjunction with the Opening Legal Year UK in London
4.	5.10.2023	Co-organized Mulu Outreach Program with SWGE and Miri Rotary Oil Club Town at SK Batu Bungan, Mulu.
5.	12.10.2023	Attended and participated in Tripartite Bar Games organized by AAS Bintulu branch in Bintulu.
6.	13.10.2023	Sesi Perbincangan Kumpulan Berfokus (Fgd) Berhubung Kajian Penyelidikan Kewajaran Cadangan Penggubalan Akta Pembelaan Awam Di Malaysia
7.	19.10.2023	Attended Asean Law Association Opening Program in Kuala Lumpur

8.	24.10.2023	Attended Working Visit to Bakun Dam with Tan Sri CJSS, Bintulu.  Attended Tan Sri CJSS Welcoming Dinner organized by AAS Bintulu Branch at the Great Hall, Bintulu.
9.	31.10.2023	Attended Rules Committee Meeting in Putrajaya (Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kaedah-Kaedah Bil. 2/2023)

### **NOVEMBER 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	1.11.2023	ADPAN's National Conference on abolishment of Death Penalty at Amada Hotel, Petaling Jaya
2.	7.11.2023	Sesi Libat Urus Ke Arah Penggubalan Akta Kebebasan Maklumat Bersama Badan Bukan Kerajaan (Ngo), Pertubuhan Masyarakat Madani (Cso), Badan Peguam Dan Ahli Akademik By BHEUU
3.	9.11.2023	Attended dinner meeting with Dean of UM Law Faculty on the setting up of ADR courses in Sarawak
4.	10.11.2023	Attended Singapore Law Society Annual Dinner at Parkroyal Hotel at the Beach Road  Mesyuarat Pelaksanaan Hukuman Gantian Terhadap Hukuman Mati Bil 6/2023
5.	15.11.2023	Meeting at Parliament on Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas Hak Asasi Manusia, Pilihan Raya dan Reformasi Institusi
6.	16.11.2023	Sesi Perbincangan Kumpulan Berfokus (Fgd) Berhubung Kajian Penyelidikan Kewajaran Cadangan Penggubalan Akta Pembelaan Awam Di Malaysia By University Malaya
7.	18.11.2023	Attended AAS Bintulu branch AGM
8.	22.11.2023	High Level Roundtable on best practices from the UK related to handling of Child victims/witnesses in the Criminal Justice system co hosted by UNICEF & the Judiciary
9.	24.11.2023	Attended AAS Kuching Branch AGM
10.	25.11.2023	Attended AAS Miri Branch AGM

		SHEDA Annual Dinner
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### **DECEMBER 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
1.	30.11.2023 – 03.12.2023	Organized Young lawyers and pupils Workshop at Pullman Hotel, Kuching
2.	05.12.2023 – 07.12.2023	Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kecil Bagi Meratifikasi The United Nations Convention On International Settlement Agreements Resulting From Mediation Dan Meminda Akta-Akta Yang Berkaitan/ Menggubal Akta Baharu Berkaitan Pengantaraan (Jawatankuasa Kecil) Bilangan 2 Tahun 2023 By BHEUU, BC & AIAC
3.	06.12.2023	Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pemandu Bagi Penyelidikan Penderaan Seksual Terhadap Kanak-Kanak Di Malaysia: Perjalanan Kanak-Kanak Ke Muka Pengadilan Bil. 1/2023  YA Datuk Duncan Farewell Dinner in Green Hotel Bintulu
4.	08.12.2023	Annual Delegates Conference Dinner with the Inquiry Committee
5.	09.12.2023	Chaired the Annual Delegates Meeting at Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

### **Opening of the Legal Year, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Miri Sarawak**

17. OLY 2023 was announced to be held in Miri during the OLY 2022 in Kota Kinabalu Sabah, although initially the then Chief Judge of the High Court of Sabah & Sarawak Tan Sri Abang Iskandar intended to announce the OLY 2023 to be in Kuching. The Association's Miri Branch took up the task of co-organizing the program with the Judiciary on behalf of the Advocates Association of Sarawak.
18. The Association's Miri Branch had also co-organized the National Symposium on Islamic Banking and Finance 2023 to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 with the Association of Islamic Banking Institutions Malaysia (AIBIM) where there were 250 participants.
19. I am pleased to inform that the OLY 2023 was a resounding success where there were 650 people attending the Gala Dinner organised in conjunction with the OLY 2023. I would like to acknowledge the job well done by the Association's Miri Branch lead by its chairman Mr. Lee Jin Wen and his committee. Thank you for keeping up the standard of such programs organized in Sarawak.

### **Tripartite Bar Games, 12th to 14th October 2023 at Bintulu**

20. The Advocates Association of Sarawak Bintulu Branch hosted the 2023 edition of the Tripartite Bar Games from 12th to 14th October 2023 in Bintulu. A total of approximately 200 advocates from West Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak attended and participated in the TBG 2023.
21. The highlight of the TBG was the Gold Medal achieved by the Football Team lead by Mr. Robert Lau – as the association last won some 20 years ago. It is also noteworthy that the Association was placed at a respectable 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind the Bar Council.
22. The Association's Bintulu Branch also deserves a GOLD MEDAL for the stellar performance in taking up the challenge to organise the TBG, and then excelling at it. The feedback received from our learned friends from West Malaysia and Sabah was that of surprise and admiration that our smallest branch was able to pull off the TBG and that too at such a high standard of hospitality. Congratulations to the Bintulu Branch Chairman Mr. Ma Seong Yui and your committee members for a job well done.

### **AAS Young Lawyer & Pupil Workshop 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

23. The workshop was held in Kuching, Sarawak commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 to facilitate the young advocates pledges given during the admission to the High Court of Sabah & Sarawak, and for incoming advocates to comply with Rule 9 of the Pupillage and Admission Rules and the Directive of the Chief Judge of the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 for pupils to attend an Advocates Training Course. Further, the workshop will also facilitate the young and incoming advocates to be able to take up the 20 YGBK cases as per their pledges to the Court.
24. We are pleased to note that the speakers for the Workshop were:-
  - a. Yang Arif Dean Wayne Daly;
  - b. Yang Arif Datuk Christopher Chin Soo Yin;
  - c. Yang Arif Leonard David Shim;
  - d. Yang Arif Wong Siong Tung;
  - e. Yang Arif Alexander Siew How Wai;
  - f. Datuk Stephen Chung Hian Guan;
  - g. Tuan Musli Bin ab Hamid (Sessions Court Judge Kuching)
  - h. Mr. Ravi Nekoo;
  - i. Mr. Ranbir Singh Sangha;
  - j. Mr. Tan Kee Heng;
  - k. Mr. Desmond Sahathevan;
  - l. Mr. Louis Ng
  - m. Mr. Khairil Azmi Bin Mohamad Hasbie
  - n. Ms. Christina Eng;
  - o. Mr. Boston Ho Teck Howe;
  - p. Ms. Christine SH Lim

25. It is heartwarming to note that such esteemed speakers were willing to answer the call of the Association to share their knowledge and experience with our advocates. We record a sincere note of thanks to all speakers and we look forward to the next chapter of the Workshop.
26. There were 115 participants at the workshop and the Association has received very favourable feedback from the participants.

### **ADR in Sarawak**

27. On this front, we take cognisance that there is an inevitable move towards ADR, where such move includes proposal to amend the Rules of Court 2012 to include a mandatory provision for all cases to be sent for mediation before such cases proceed to hearing/trial. BHEUU is also reviewing existing laws to include the Singapore Convention on International Mediation to be implemented in Malaysia. Having said that, have no doubt that the Association is on top of this and have started engaging with ADR providers in Malaysia to set up course for our members in Sarawak. At present, we have received numerous proposals from AIDAR, AIAC, MIMC and we are also considering to set up such ADR courses with University Malaya. The association has been having a number of engagement sessions with ADR providers in Malaysia and will update the members in due course on the training to be offered to all members interested.
28. The Association has also been invited to participate in the setting up of an ADR centre in Sarawak. Initial discussions were held by the Association with BICAM and AIAC – where both providers have had audiences with the State Government. In fact, the State Government has also identified a heritage building as the centre for ADR in Sarawak, where we have been made to understand that renovation works have commenced to convert the building into a suitable ADR Centre. The Association was then informed that the State Government wishes to proceed with the AIAC-Sarawak choice and made such decision for a number of reasons. The Association has been invited by the State Government to participate in the move to set up AIAC-Sarawak – where it is needless to say that the Association will play the role of ensuring that there are (among others) adequate protection towards the local ADR practitioners in the agreement between the State Government and AIAC.
29. This matter will be further discussed during the ADC and we shall inform the members accordingly in due course.

### **Increment of LONO Fees**

30. At present, advocates in West Malaysia pay around RM1512.00 per year for their practising certificate (including the fees for mandatory courses). In

Sabah, advocates pay RM750.00 per year. However, in Sarawak, Advocates only pay RM 96 per year to the Central Committee to obtain our practicing certificate.

31. There is an obvious need for the LONO fees to be increased to the range of RM50 to RM100.00 - RM150.00 as this would assist the Central Committee to raise the necessary funds to firstly operate the Bar Room and Secretariat in a more professional manner – including potentially hiring a Manager of the Association to attend to administrative tasks. Secondly, to enable central to organise more courses for our young/new members at discounted rates or potentially - free of charge. Thirdly, to facilitate participation of our members and committee members in programs/engagements. These are just a few pertinent reasons for increment of the LONO fees.
32. The amount paid by our members is far too low considering the strides the Association is making and the future programs planned. I hope the members would vote for this favourably during the ADC.

### **Inquiry Committee**

33. The present term of the Inquiry Committee is helmed by Datuk Stephen Chung, with the following other members:-
  - 1 Datuk Stephen Chung Hian Guan - Chairman (Sibu)
  - 2 Mr. Benny Zaidy Bin Jalil - Secretary (Kuching)
  - 3 Mr. Jason Wong Seng Ho - Member (Miri)
  - 4 Ms. Merlyn Toh Ai Mei - Member (Miri)
  - 5 Mr. Tonny Hii Yii Yik - Member (Sibu)
  - 6 Mr. Tiong Ing Hock - Member (Sibu)
  - 7 Mr. Orlando Chua Siau Wei - Member (Sibu)
  - 8 Ms. Ting Huong Kheng - Member (Bintulu)
  - 9 Ms. Magdalene Lucas - Member (Bintulu)
  - 10 Ms. Wong Woan Sii - Member (Bintulu)
  - 11 Mr. Khairil Azmi Bin Mohamad Hasbie - Member (Kuching)
  - 12 Mr. Colin Lai Hon Chiong - Member (Kuching)
  - 13 Mr. Gerry Wong Swee Kee - Member (Kuching)
  - 14 Mr. Wong Siong Ling - Member (Kuching)
34. I am also a member of the Inquiry Committee by virtue of the seat of President.

## **Admission and Exemption Hearings**

35. The following are the Admission Hearings:

**Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

Numbers of Petition: 23 Petitions for Admission

AAS Representative for Interview: Gurvir Singh Sandhu, Christine S H Lim

AAS Representative for Admission Hearing: Gurvir Singh Sandhu, Christine S H Lim

All Petitions were duly heard and order in terms by the Honourable High Court Judge, Datuk Azahari Kamal Bin Ramli

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Numbers of Petition: 4 Petitions for Exemption and 9 Petitions for Admission

AAS Representative for Interview: Gurvir Singh Sandhu

AAS Representative for Exemption and Admission Hearing: Gurvir Singh Sandhu

All Petitions were duly heard and order in terms by the Honourable High Court Judge, Datuk Azahari Kamal Bin Ramli

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Numbers of Petition: 4 Petitions for Exemption and 10 Petitions for Admission

AAS Representative for Interview: Liew Tang Chieh

AAS Representative for Exemption and Admission Hearing: Desmond Sahathevan, Bartholomew Lopez

All Petitions were duly heard and order in terms by the Honourable High Court Judge, Dato Dr. Haji Alwi Bin Haji Abdul Wahab

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Numbers of Petition: 2 Petitions for Exemption and 7 Petitions for Admission

AAS Representative for Interview: Emeric Teo

AAS Representative for Exemption and Admission Hearing: Liew Tang Chieh

All Petitions were duly heard and order in terms by the Honourable High Court Judge, Datuk Zaleha Rose Pandin

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Numbers of Petition: 1 Petition for Exemption and 11 Petitions for Admission

AAS Representative for Interview: Daniel Ling Chok Luk,

AAS Representative for Exemption and Admission Hearing: Christine S H Lim

All Petitions were duly heard and order in terms by the Honourable High Court Judge, Dato Dr. Haji Alwi Bin Haji Abdul Wahab

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Numbers of Petition: 2 Petitions for Exemption and 22 Petitions for Admission

AAS Representative for Interview: Daniel Ling Chok Luk, Nicholas Wung Duk Ying

AAS Representative for Exemption and Admission Hearing: Gurvir Singh Sandhu

All Petitions were duly heard and order in terms by the Honourable High Court Judge, Datuk Zaleha Rose Pandin

36. As per the practice of the previous term of office, all Petitions were discussed and deliberated upon by the AAS Advisory Sub-Committee consisting of the President and 4 Vice Presidents, and the Secretariat and their decisions were then endorsed by the Central Committee prior to hearings of the said Petitions.
37. The following Petitioners were admitted to the Rolls of Advocates of the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak in the State of Sarawak and the AAS Central Committee extends our warmest congratulations and welcome the following Advocates to the Bar:-

No.	Name	Roll No.	Date of Enrolment
1	Wesley Lau Jen Hien	1806	01/02/2023
2	Alex Kong Jing Sharn	1807	01/02/2023
3	Abang Mohd Hashim Bin Abang Abdul Khalex	1808	01/02/2023
4	Wilson Tan Wei Sheng	1809	01/02/2023
5	Rachel Lau Ming Suok	1810	01/02/2023
6	Wong Charng Zheng	1811	01/02/2023
7	Chung Sung Siong	1812	01/02/2023
8	Wong Kwong Kiung	1813	01/02/2023
9	Chung Hui Ming	1814	01/02/2023
10	Ling Guong Zhin	1815	01/02/2023
11	Elister Chua Shi Hern	1816	01/02/2023
12	Efy Azirah Binti Majid	1817	01/02/2023
13	Abdul Hakeem Tirmizi Bin Abdul Fattah	1818	02/02/2023
14	Abdul Rahman Bin Ya'acob	1819	02/02/2023
15	Lee Wan Qi	1820	01/02/2023
16	Nurul Zafirah Binti Jaya	1821	02/02/2023
17	Vanessa Ting Ann Yee	1822	03/02/2023
18	Nur Qashrina Binti Sallehuddin	1823	06/02/2023
19	Wong King Yii	1824	07/02/2023
20	Ralph Lee Zhen Jie	1825	10/02/2023
21	Joyce Kung Zhi Yan	1826	23/02/2023
22	Voon Jia Yi	1827	06/03/2023
23	Donna Gelang Bobby	1828	27/03/2023
24	Najla Qarllisha Binti Omar Alli	1829	27/03/2023
25	Nur Qistyna Binti Idris	1830	27/03/2023
26	Tan Yen Nee	1831	27/03/2023
27	Caroline Sarah Anak Bunsu	1832	27/03/2023
28	Bernie Eng Shu Jier	1833	27/03/2023
29	Mohamed Asyraf Bin Jaafar	1834	28/03/2023
30	Joanne Tang Mei Jie	1835	29/03/2023
31	Allison Hiew Lee Shyuen (F)	1836	30/03/2023
32	Cristian Vasile Baci	1837	12/06/2023
33	Ting Zhao Hong	1838	11/07/2023
34	Teng Zhen Cin	1839	20/06/2023
35	Soo Tien Ren	1840	20/06/2023
36	Norman Tan Jia Wei	1841	20/06/2023
37	Afina Efaleen Anak Siten	1842	20/06/2023
38	Ng Lee Sin	1843	21/06/2023
39	Jordan Ling Kie Seng	1844	21/06/2023
40	Wong Jo Yiin	1845	22/06/2023
41	Dennis Lau Ngie Soon	1846	23/06/2023
42	Khairul Anwar Bin Shazali	1847	05/07/2023
43	Nur Aidili Fadzillah Binti Abdillah	1848	31/07/2023
44	Amera Binti Mohd Yusof	1849	31/07/2023
45	Joyce Ting Nik Yen	1850	01/08/2023

46	Tai Siew Yen	1851	01/08/2023
47	Callesya Cindy Richard	1852	14/08/2023
48	Sharifah Alia Natasya Binti Wan Adruce	1853	16/08/2023
49	Ting Jing	1854	27/09/2023
50	Sharon Lo Min Hui	1855	27/09/2023
51	Beatrice Minda Anak Winston Bale	1856	27/09/2023
52	Samantha Tang Ee Sze	1857	27/09/2023
53	Kimberly Tang Ju Sze	1858	27/09/2023
54	Samyuktha Dewi Ap Balachandran	1859	28/09/2023
55	Teo Wei Ping	1860	29/09/2023
56	Lau Pei San	1861	29/09/2023
57	Wong Chang Yung	1862	30/09/2023
58	Eugenie Cherembang Anak John Louis	1863	02/10/2023
59	Sherlene Lau Li Shien	1864	03/10/2023
60	Rachel Ho Wang Ying	1865	28/11/2023
61	Sharon Ho Sing Ying	1866	28/11/2023
62	Tan Mei Zi	1867	28/11/2023
63	Sheldon Anak Assom	1868	28/11/2023
64	Malcolm Yap Kai Wei	1869	28/11/2023
65	Rachel Lee Sin Tin	1870	28/11/2023
66	Elaine Sii Liu Wen (F)	1871	28/11/2023
67	Harry Tandang Anak Wie	1872	28/11/2023
68	Tay Xiang Rong	1873	28/11/2023
69	Liew Yu-Xuan Sandra	1874	28/11/2023
70	Voon Yan Sin	1875	28/11/2023
71	Paula Law Poh Er	1877	28/11/2023
72	Haritz Bin Hamzah	1878	29/11/2023
73	Mohamad Muhaimin Bin Zakaria	1879	29/11/2023
74	Desmond Ling Han Ee	1880	29/11/2023
75	Fabian Meringgai Anak Sebastian	1881	01/12/2023
76	Shemira Binti Adzhar	1882	04/12/2023
77	Aydiel Putra Bin Alwi	1883	04/12/2023
78	Sharmaine Mirna Bt Mohamad Suffian	1884	04/12/2023
79	Chiu Jin Jin	1885	05/12/2023

38. I record the Central Committee and my appreciation and thanks to all the named representatives of the AAS above who had represented and assisted Central in the admission and exemption hearings.

### **Recognition of the Association**

39. Members would note from the list of engagements under paragraph 15 above, that the Association has started being recognised by international Bars and organisation as the sole and exclusive organisation in Sarawak concerning Advocates. At present, the Association has been in active engagement with our counterparts from the United Kingdom, Singapore, Hong Kong and Brunei. The Association shall endeavour to continue

engaging with further international bar/organisations to wider our horizons and opportunities for our members.

40. The Association is also member of a number of working committee as follows:
  - a. Rules Committee;
  - b. Consultative Committee on Industrial Law;
  - c. Committee for the rectification of the United Nations Convention On International Settlement Agreements Resulting From Mediation; and
  - d. International Committee of UK-Malaysia Legal Services Working Group (Perkhidmatan Perundangan di bawah Jawatankuasa Bersama Bagi Kerjasama Perdagangan Dan Pelaburan Dua Hala Antara Malaysia dan United Kingdom (UK)).

### **Conclusion**

41. In closing, I would like to express my gratitude and my appreciation to all the committee members for their hard work over the 2023 period, and I look forward to further commitment from them in 2024. To our members, I thank you for your passionate support of the Association and its activities.
42. Let us all stand united behind the Central Committee and the Association's Branches to be a strong and purposeful bar, and move away from the hideous notion that we are merely a 'social club'.

Thank you and regards,

Gurvir Singh Sandhu

President of the Advocates Association of Sarawak