

ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF SARAWAK

BINTULU BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR 2022

(i) Opening of Legal Year 2022

Opening legal year for this year was held on **21st January 2022** at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, the attendance was only by invitation and as Vice President of AAS, I was invited and had duly attended.

(ii) Get-together dinner

A get-together dinner was held on 11th May, 2022 to provide an opportunity for new lawyers and chambering students in Bintulu to meet up and get to know each other and also to get to know the rest of the practicing lawyers in Bintulu. In the recent two years, we saw a spike in the numbers of new lawyers in Bintulu to the range of 15 – 20 persons. This is very much different from the previous years where on average, only 2-3 new lawyers per year.

The dinner was well received and almost all the new lawyers and chambering students turned up. I believe it provides them a good opportunity to mingle around and to get to know each other better as zoom was widely used for hearing of cases in Court and there is hardly opportunity to meet each other in Court. Similar limited opportunity applies to those practising in conveyancing.

(iii) Elevation of High Court Judge, Bintulu

Judicial Commissioner, Yang Arif Dato' Duncan Sikodol was elevated to High Court Judge, on 27th April, 2022. Yang Arif has served as Judicial Commissioner at High Court Bintulu since 3rd May, 2019. Congratulatory letter was sent by AAS, Bintulu to Yang Arif on 29th April, 2022 to congratulate Yang Arif on his elevation. Yang Arif replied to AAS Bintulu on 13th May, 2022 expressing his gratitude and expressing his appreciation to all legal practitioners in Bintulu who are dedicated and professional in discharging their duties in Court and hope that this standard will be maintained for smooth and better administration of justice.

(iv) Elevation dinner for High Court Judge, Bintulu

Elevation dinner was held for Yang Arif on 14th June, 2022. This dinner was co-hosted by AAS Bintulu and Mahkamah Bintulu. This joyous occasion was attended by a high number of members, senior and junior alike. Invitation was sent out to Central Committee of AAS and the President, Immediate Past President and a Vice President had responded and attended the dinner to which we were grateful.

(v) Elevation dinner for High Court Judge, Sibuloh

Elevation dinner was similarly held by AAS Sibuloh for Yang Arif Christopher Chin who was elevated to High Court Judge on the same day as YA Dato Duncan Sikidol. On AAS Sibuloh's invitation, we have attended this dinner on 21st June, 2022.

(vi) Law Awareness program

Law Awareness program was held for 2 days from 13.08.22 - 14.08.22 at Parkcity Mall. The program was aimed to assist public in giving them legal advice on issues they faced in the area of criminal, civil, matrimonial and syariah. Eight lawyers who were divided into two teams were stationed on these 2 days and 7 queries were received and attended to. I must thank all members who were involved.

This program was held jointly with Central Committee who have their PMC-19 Mediation Services Awareness program.

(vii) Annual Dinner

We have decided to hold our Annual Dinner on **3rd February 2023 [tentative date]** in conjunction with Chinese New Year 2023. It has not been held for the past 2 years due to the pandemic. It is due and we hope members will give their strongest support for this annual event.

(viii) Opening of Legal Year 2023

As you all are aware, Opening of Legal Year for next year will be held in Miri on 13.01.2023. It will no longer be restricted by invitation and is open to all lawyers. I hope all the members can support and attend this program especially new lawyers. Participation from Bintulu members in this program is always high and I hope it is to be maintained.

(ix) Passing of the late Hii Chee Wung

We lost one of our very senior members, the late Mr Hii Chee Wung on 15.10.22. The late Mr Hii belonged to the typical category of Advocate who practised under their own sole proprietor firm and practised in common areas of law-practice in the quest for an honest living. The late Mr Hii was particularly well-known in the area of criminal practice and conveyancing practice. The late Mr Hii was always humble, witty, trustworthy and easily approachable making other members who had any dealing with him, be it litigation or conveyancing, at ease and less wary most of the time.

We dutifully pay our last respect to him and arranged for wreath to be sent and condolences to be published in newspapers.

With that, I conclude my report.

Dated the 10th December, 2022

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Ma Seong Yuin