

**ADVOCATES ASSOCIATION OF SARAWAK
SIBU BRANCH CHAIRMAN REPORT
(17.11.2023 – 17.11.2024)**

Dear Members,

A very warm welcome to all of you to our AGM 2024. Below are my brief reports for the activities carried out and events took place during the period from 17.11.2023 to 17.11.2024 both at Central and Branch levels:-

Activities/Events carried out at Branch Level

No.	Date	Activities/Events	Remarks
1		<p>Branch Committee Meetings</p> <p>Meetings were held on 29.11.2023, 31.01.2024, 14.06.2024, 19.09.2024 and 22.10.2024.</p> <p>We had a total of 5 Branch Committee meetings throughout one year to deliberate matters within Branch and on Central level.</p>	
2		<p>Extraordinary General Meeting</p> <p>We had our EGM on 17.07.2024 to discuss and vote on the following matters:-</p> <p>a) Amendments to the Constitution of the Advocates Association of Sarawak;</p> <p>b) The model on the formation of a Statutory Body for Legal Profession in Sarawak; and</p> <p>c) Organisation of the Opening of Legal Year 2025 Dinner in Kuching.</p>	
3		<p>Informal Gathering</p> <p>We had organised this event on 02.03.2024 at Starbucks SibU. 35 participants took part in this event.</p>	
4		<p>Legal Aid Service</p> <p>We are in the process of setting up this service headed by Vice Chairman Timothy Lim.</p>	
5		<p>Number of SibU Branch Members and Legal Firms in SibU, Sarikei, Bintangor, Kapit and Mukah</p> <p>As of 17.11.2024, SibU Branch has 162 paid members and 74 legal firms in SibU, Sarikei, Bintangor, Kapit and Mukah.</p>	

Activities/Events carried out at Central Level

No.	Date	Activities/Events	Remarks
1		<p>Annual Delegates Conference (ADC) 2023 in Kuching</p> <p>ADC 2023 was held on 09.12.2023 in Kuching. Myself together with the Branch Secretary, Branch Treasurer and Boston attended ADC by virtue of our positions as SibU Branch delegates. Branch Vice Chairman has given his proxy to Branch Secretary.</p>	
2		<p>Opening of Legal Year 2024 held in Kota Kinabalu</p> <p>Some of our Committee Members attended the event.</p>	
3		<p>Admission Hearing in Kuching High Court</p> <p>Christine Lim appeared on behalf of the AAS for the admission and exemption hearing on 26.09.2023, 02.02.2024, 28.03.2024 and 11.10.2024 in Kuching.</p>	
4		<p>YBGK</p> <p>Christine Lim is the person in charge of YBGK Sarawak from 2022-2024. We are pleased to inform that most of our SibU young lawyers have fulfilled their YBGK Pledge in completing 20 YBGK cases in their first year of practice.</p> <p>YBGK Cases (2024)</p> <p>YBGK Sarawak managed to assign the following trials/appeals in SibU:-</p> <p>CoA Appeal – 2 cases HC Appeal – 13 cases MC Trial – 1 case</p> <p>We are proud to inform that SibU Branch will be organising a YBGK Part I and II Training in SibU on 30.11.2024.</p>	
5		<p>Pupillage Handbook</p> <p>Christine Lim who is heading the Young Lawyers & YBGK Sub-Committee at Central level is in charge of the Pupillage Handbook for pupils and young lawyers.</p> <p>The Sixth Edition of the Handbook has been circulated via Central's email on 01.07.2024.</p>	

6		<p>Inquiry Committee</p> <p>We have three Sibu Branch Members currently sitting in the Inquiry Committee for the term July 2023 – June 2025, namely John Tiong Ing Hock, Orlando Chua Siau Wei and myself.</p>	
7		<p>New Sibu Members admitted to Sarawak Bar</p> <p>24.11.2023 – Elaine Sii Liu Wen, Chiu Jin Jin, Tay Xiang Rong, Desmond Ling Han Ee, Paula Law Poh Er</p> <p>02.02.2024 – Ling Hang Chou</p> <p>12.07.2024 – Leong King Yap, Audrey Chieng Hui Sieng, Leslie Kong Chie Yong, Ling Leeqi</p> <p>11.10.2024 – Clement Hii Zhi Kang, Wong Biin Ong, Siti Huszaini Binti Hajman @ Hamjeman</p>	
8		<p>AAS Website</p> <p>The AAS Website has been launched on 20.08.2024.</p>	
9		<p>Draft Website Rules</p> <p>The Draft Website Rules has been approved by ADC. The Rules are currently pending approval from SAG.</p>	
10		<p>Amendment to the Inquiry Committee Rules</p> <p>The Inquiry Committee headed by Datuk Stephen Chung has submitted a new draft of Proposed Amended Inquiry Committee Rules to CJSS for comments. Mr. John Tiong has been tasked to draft the proposal with a summary write up on the proposed amendments.</p>	
11		<p>Amendments to the Constitution of the AAS</p> <p>During our Branch Extraordinary General Meeting held on 17th July, 2024, we had tabled our proposal and the Meeting unanimously approved the proposal and further empowered our Branch Delegates to accept further amendments during the Extraordinary Delegates Conference held on 03.08.2024.</p> <p>The purpose is to fulfill the instructions of the Registrar of Societies to amend jumbled up clauses.</p> <p>During the Extraordinary Delegates Conference on 03.08.2024, it was unanimously resolved for</p>	

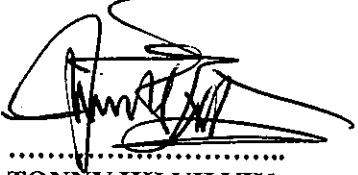
		<p>Working Committee on proposed amendments to the Constitution to be setup so that proposals from Kuching and Bintulu Delegates are to be referred to Working Committee to be deliberated and the matter is adjourned to the next EDC pending feedback from the Working Committee.</p> <p>Our Branch Chairman, Vice Chairman and Branch Secretary are representing the Sibul Branch at the Working Committee for Amendment of Constitution.</p>	
12		<p>Formation of the Statutory Body</p> <p>Several Central Committee Members together with 5 of our committees, i.e. myself, Christine Lim, William Ting, Boston Ho and Penny Su met with CJSS on 27.04.2024 in Sibul to discuss on this issue.</p> <p>This was followed by an informal breakfast session with the TYT on 01.05.2024 attended by myself, Timothy Lim and Christine Lim.</p> <p>After that, the Townhall Meeting with CJSS on 21.06.2024 in Kuching attended by myself, Timothy Lim, Christine Lim, William Ting and Boston Ho.</p> <p>During our Branch Extraordinary General Meeting held on 17th July, 2024, the following 2 proposals were put to vote:</p> <p><u>1st Proposal:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Statutory Body in Sarawak shall be established, to be known as either "The Sarawak Bar" or "The Law Society of Sarawak". 2. The set up of a main committee (which can be referred to as "Council" playing the role of the current Central Committee) will comprise of 15 members. <p>12 members are the 3 representatives of each existing branch including 4 Branch Chairmen who are automatically one of the 3 representatives.</p> <p>4 Branch Chairmen will be the Vice Presidents.</p> <p>The position of the President, Secretary and Treasurer are to be directly elected with one member one vote.</p>	

		<p>1 Immediate Past President with no voting right.</p> <p>3. The Statutory Body shall be managed by a professional team akin to the Bar Council and SLS set up.</p> <p>4. The 4 branches shall continue to exist where each branch shall send 3 representatives each to the Main Committees. The branches shall operate separately and independently to attend to regional concerns and events.</p> <p>5. Subject to the minor amendments to the above, the Delegates are mandated to discuss and vote on the above provided that no one branch has majority number in the Central Committee.</p> <p><u>2nd Proposal:</u> To maintain the current delegates system.</p> <p>The matter was put to vote. Majority of the Branch Members voted for the 1st Proposal.</p> <p>During the Extraordinary Delegates Conference on 03.08.2024, it was unanimously resolved for Working Committee on proposed model of the Statutory Body for Sarawak to be setup for deliberation of proposed Statutory Body matters.</p> <p>Our Branch Chairman, Branch Vice Chairman and Branch Secretary are representing the Sibü Branch at the Working Committee on formation of Statutory Body.</p>	
13		<p>Opening of Legal Year 2025</p> <p>The Opening of Legal Year 2025 will be held in Kuching, Sarawak on 10th January, 2025 and followed by the National Symposium on Islamic Banking & Finance to be held from 11th to 12th January, 2025. The theme is "A Night in Taj Mahal".</p> <p>Kuching Branch has declined to organise this event. As a result, Sibü Branch and Bintulu Branch will organise the Welcoming and Gala Dinners and the National Symposium under the assistance of AAS Central. Both Gala Dinner and National Symposium 2025 will be held at Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching.</p> <p>The Judiciary will take charge in organising the morning session OLY Procession on 10th January, 2025. We are to gather at the Old Court House,</p>	

		followed by a procession to Hikmah Exchange Building where the formal event will be held. We encourage SibU Members to support these events by taking part in the functions.	
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I would like to express my sincere thanks to all SibU Members for your strong support and to my Committee Members for your commitment to AAS SibU.

Reported by:



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TONY HUI YI YIK
Branch Chairman
17.11.2024