

**ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION OF SARAWAK
(MIRI BRANCH)**

[Chairman's Report at the AGM held on 23rd November 2024]

1. INTRODUCTION

The last Annual General Meeting was held on 25th November 2023. The current committee was elected in 2022, and we have the honour of operating the Miri Branch of the Association for another year until today. The current committee are as follows :-

- a) Chairman – Lee Jin Wen
- b) Vice Chairman – Sim Boon Hui
- c) Secretary – Henry Tan Shiu Hee
- d) Treasurer – Amanda Yong Li Ling

Committee members :-

- e) Suzie Telan Gau
- f) Lydia Bedindang
- g) Zainuranisa Binti Bani
- h) Chai Yong Ling
- i) Ong Jing Yee
- j) Jonathan Kuan Che Gie

1. GOTONG-ROYONG PROGRAMME

On 27th January 2024, the Association together with Kita Jaga Miri had organized a Gotong-Royong programme at Miri General Hospital from 7:30 am until 10:45 am. The programme was attended by most of our committee members.



2. MEETING WITH SARAWAK REGISTRY OF SOCIETIES (ROS)

On the 30th April 2024, the Association has attended *SESI LIBAT URUS (ENGAGEMENT) BERSAMA PEGUAMBELA SARAWAK* which was organized by the former ROS director, Datuk Georgina Apphia Ngau in Kuching after the Association had received a letter dated 13th March 2024 from ROS due to the non-compliance of certain requirements under the Societies Act 1966.

During the meeting, it was informed that AAS Central did not submit the individual Branch's financial statement to ROS annually but submitted it as a consolidated account. ROS has further raised some other issues, including the year ending of the financial account – which is supposed to be closing on 30th June each year, and not 31st December.

On the 8th April 2024, the Association had wrote a letter to update ROS that we have updated the required particulars in e-ROSES system.

Due to the above, the Association has prepared three (3) different sets of accounts (from 1/1/2022 until 30/6/2023, from 1/1/2023 until 31/12/2023 and from 1/7/2023 until 30/6/2024).



3. INFORMAL BREAKFAST SESSION WITH TUAN YANG TERUTAMA (TYT) YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI SARAWAK, TUN DR. HAJI WAN JUNAIDI BIN TUANKU JAAFAR

The Association has been invited by AAS Central to attend the discussion with His Excellency which was held on the 1st May 2024 in Kuching. The session was attended by myself and Henry Tan Shiu Hee.

During the session, His Excellency has mentioned that the state government of Sarawak will support us on the formation in setting up the Statutory Body. The session was attended by YB Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah Bt. Sayeed Aman Ghazali and Dato Sri Saferi Bin Ali and also the chairman and secretary of other branches.



4. TOWNHALL MEETING WITH THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHIEF JUDGE OF SABAH & SARAWAK

On 21st June 2024, the Townhall Meeting with the Right Honourable Chief Judge of Sabah & Sarawak, Tan Sri Dato' Abdul Rahman bin Sebli was held in Kuching and attended by myself. The session was about the concerning legal practice in Sarawak.



5. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

The Association had our Branch Extraordinary General Meeting on 13th July 2024 at Imperial Hotel Miri to discuss and vote the following matters:

- 1) Amendments to the Constitution of the Advocates Association of Sarawak;

During EGM, the proposal was put for vote and it was unanimously agreed and adopted by all the members present. The Delegates from Miri Branch be empowered to accept the amendments to the Constitution with minimum amendment that do not touch on the structure of the Constitution.

2) The mode on the formation of a Statutory Body for Legal Profession in Sarawak; and

During EGM, the following proposal is voted unanimously by the members present.

- a) A Statutory Body in Sarawak shall be established, to be known as either "The Sarawak Bar" or "The Law Society of Sarawak".
- b) 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. 12 members are the 3 representatives of each existing branch including the 4 Branch Chairmen who are automatically one of the 3 representatives. The position of the President, Secretary and Treasurer are to be directly elected with one member one vote.
- c) 1 Immediate Past President with no voting right.
- d) The Statutory Body shall be managed by a professional team akin to the Bar Council and SLS set up.
- e) 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.
- f) Subject to the minor amendments to the above, the Delegates are mandated to discuss and vote on the above provided that that no one branch has majority number in the Central Committee.
- g) In the event that Items 1 to 6 above are not approved during the EDC, then the existing Delegates System shall be maintained.

3) Organisation of the Opening of Legal Year 2025 in Kuching

During EGM, this matter is suggested to put in the EDC for the Kuching Branch to reconsider. If the Kuching Branch has resolved not to organize OLY 2025, then the Central will take over. The matter is voted unanimously by the members present.

During EDC, since Kuching Branch has decided not to organize OLY 2025, Sibul Branch and Bintulu Branch has voluntarily taken up the task to organize OLY 2025 including the National Symposium On Islamic Banking.

6. CIRCUS GREAT BRITISH

On 25th August 2024, a group of NGO comprising of Persatuan Kebajikan Prihatin Miri, The Rotary Club of Miri Oil Town and the AAS Miri Branch together with Kelab Sukan Mahkamah Miri had organized a Great British Circus sessions for 46 children from the Single Mother Association, ASNAF, Peryatim Miri and Single parents group at Boulevard Miri. The programme was also attended by our President.



7. KITA JAGA MIRI PROGRAMME

The Association collaborated with Kita Jaga Miri to sponsor six (6) units of 5-seater stainless steel low back chairs without padding with armrest and 1 unit of Coway Water Dispenser to Sarawak General Hospital for public purposes.



8. YBGK

Most of our Miri young lawyers have fulfilled their YBGK Pledge in completing 20 YBGK cases in their first year of practice. It was informed that Sibu Branch will be organizing a YBGK Part I and II Training in Sibu on 30.11.2024.

9. Amendment to the Inquiry Committee Rules

The Inquiry Committee headed by Datuk Stephen Chung has submitted a new draft of Proposal 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.

10. DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

On 24th October 2024, I had attended SESI PERBINCANGAN JAWATANKUASA PILIHAN KHAS SEMAKAN UNDANG-UNDANG MAJLIS MESYUARAT DEWAN NEGARA 2024 at Dewan Undangan Negeri Kuching.

During the session, they want feedback from us on the laws that require amendment or no longer relevant that ought to be abolished.

11. MUTIARA CLINIC (GENERAL HOSPITAL MIRI)

The Association collaborated with Kita Jaga Miri and the Rotary Club of Miri Oil Town to transform two cabins into the Mutiara Clinic, dedicated to providing hospital daycare services. This innovative project aimed to enhance healthcare accessibility for the local community by offering essential medical services in a convenient setting.

12. AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS)

The Association is working together with Kita Jaga Miri to make AEDs more accessible in public spaces and to educate people on their use. The purpose is to make everyone to feel confident and prepared. Knowing how to use an AED is a skill everyone can learn, and it's a skill that can save lives.

The Association will propose to have an AED to be allocated at the court premises. The Association would like to move Miri to be a heart safe city.

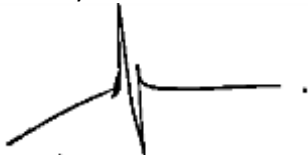
13. BOTTOM LINE

The audited accounts reports a loss of **RM4,985.00** as at 30.06.2024. Balance in account as at 31st October 2024 – **RM100,411.82**.

14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the support and contribution from members of the AAS Miri Branch Committee and especially to the Members of the Miri Bar who tremendously supported and had contributed to our association and events. Further, our task would have been much difficult if we did not have the support and guidance from the AAS Central Committee so allow us to record our appreciation to Mr. Gurvir Singh Sandhu and his committee for their assistance.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lee Jin Wen', written over a horizontal line.

Lee Jin Wen
CHAIRMAN