

Speech in Conjunction with the Admission of Lawyers in the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak at Kuching High Court on 8th August 2025

Salam Sejahtera and a very Good Morning.

Tuan Supian Tarmizi bin Mohamad Tazuddin representing the State Attorney General of Sarawak

Ms. Christine Lim Shiew Hsia representing the Advocates Association of Sarawak

The Petitioners' Movers,

The Petitioner,

All their Family Members who are present today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first congratulate all of you the Petitioners for your admission to the Rolls of Advocates Sarawak. I would also like to extend my warmest congratulation to your proud parents, family members, friends and your pupil masters who have in one way or another guided, supported and invested in your personal and professional lives.

As you embark into this profession, it requires you a life-long learning. Learn new things to keep abreast with the developments of the law in Malaysia and the Commonwealth including amendments and passing of State and Federal laws and statutes which will lead you to much-needed wisdom to uphold law and justice.

It is an established fact that lawyers are regarded and referred to as 'officers of the court'. *Black's Law Dictionary* defines an officer of the court as one '*who is charged with upholding the law and administering the judicial system*'. As such, lawyers as officers of the court must act not only to champion the private interests of their clients that they serve but also

to assist the court in the fair and efficient administration of our justice system.

As a professional, a lawyer has a heavy responsibility. Good lawyers come to court well-prepared. Prepare your case in advance. You should marshal the facts of your case well in advance and know the law applicable to the case before the trial commences. Thereafter, you would be able to present your case in accordance with the facts and evidence made available to you.

The other important value of an advocate, is the etiquette as prescribed in the Advocates (Practice and Etiquette) Rules 1988. I would advise all of you to have a look at this provision of the law and be familiar with all the provisions pertaining to conduct and etiquette therein. This will go a long way towards your career development and advancement in your legal practice, standing and reputation in the legal fraternity in time to come.

The rules of etiquette are many. Among them are these, when you are appearing in court conduct yourself with decorum. Be respectful to the court. There must be no deception to the court in relation to anything which the court is required to know under the procedure applicable. Lawyers must not mislead or deceive the court by stating facts which are to his knowledge untrue.

You also have to be respectful to your opposing counsel. Addressed him or her with the salutation 'learned friend' or 'learned counsel'. Do not demonstrate unpleasant feelings towards your opposing counsel by making disparaging remarks or untoward gestures against him or her.

In short, carry yourself with integrity and honesty. Your admission to the Bar carries with it very onerous responsibility both to your clients and to the court and above all to the administration of justice.

I would also like to quote what had been said by His Royal Highness Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, the Regent of Perak Darul Ridzuan when delivering the

keynote address at the *Inaugural Perak Bar Law Lecture 2013* on 16 November 2013 at Ipoh as follows:

“As lawyers, you are entrusted with upholding the law and justice. It, therefore, goes without saying that the profession should attract not only those with a high intellect, but also those endowed with integrity and honesty.”

On that note I end by once again congratulating you and wish you all the best as you embark your journey to uphold the rule of law.

Thank you.

The court will now adjourn.

Dated this 8th August 2025

(AMELATI ANAK PARNELL)

Judge

High Court Bintulu