

**SPEECH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ADMISSION OF
LAWYERS IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND
SARAWAK AT KUCHING HIGH COURT DELIVERED BY THE
HONOURABLE JUSTICE DATO' FARIDZ GOHIM BIN
ABDULLAH, HIGH COURT JUDGE ON 7TH NOVEMBER
2025**

**Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Ta'ala Wabarakatuh,
Salam Sejahtera and a very Good Morning.**

**Yang Berusaha Tuan Supian Tarmizi bin Mohamad
Tazuddin, representing the State Attorney General of
Sarawak;**

**Ms. Kay Ting Huong Kheng, representing the Advocates
Association of Sarawak;**

The Petitioners' Movers;

Petitioners; and,

**the Family members of the Petitioners who are present
today.**

- [1]** Petitioners, Advocates of Sarawak: I sit here with immense pleasure to offer my most profound congratulations on your successful admission to the Roll of Advocates Sarawak. Now, fellow members of the Bar, today marks the beginning of a profound journey—one that calls for your highest ideals. You join a profession that has long been regarded as among the most noble and demanding. I extend my warmest welcome not only to you, but also to the dedicated family members and diligent masters whose guidance has culminated in this momentous achievement.
- [2]** Though we may say that this day marks the beginning of your legal career, it is not far-fetched to say that it also marks the end of your days as amateurs. In your place now stand professionals—legal professionals, no less. This journey began long before your 12-month pupillage; it began on the very first day you opened your law books at university and took your first step into the realm of justice.
- [3]** Beyond today's symbolic ceremony of robing lies a great stature and a sacred trust. The public expects you, the members of the Bar, to act with ironclad integrity, to be fearless advocates for justice, and to exercise your power with profound professionalism and ethical rigor. They look

to you to be pillars of the community, to ensure that the voice of the law is heard clearly and fairly, and to be a visible testament to the unwavering commitment to the Rule of Law.

[4] The rule of law must be respected, especially in these modern times and in our multicultural society, if we are to live in peace and harmony. You are part of the administration of justice; your role is not merely to fill your coffers, but to maintain and strive for the continual improvement of justice itself.

[5] This brings me to the oft-quoted words of Lord Denning in *Rondel v Worsley* [1969] 1 AC 191, at 227:

“Every counsel has a duty to his client fearlessly to raise every issue, advance every argument, and ask every question, however distasteful, which he thinks will help his client's case. But, as an officer of the court concerned in the administration of justice, he has an overriding duty to the court, to the standards of his profession, and to the public...”

- [6]** The message and lesson here is clear: though appointed and paid by your client, you are not a mere hired gun. You are an officer of the court—a vital component in the machinery of justice.
- [7]** This role places upon you the obligation to uphold the integrity of the judicial process. Your primary loyalty is not to the client in the chair, but to truth, to law, and to the court you serve. When you stand before a judge, be prepared with your facts. You are there not merely to argue, but to assist in ensuring that justice is done. True advocacy is clarity; the greatest advocates are those who can simplify the complex with precision and grace.
- [8]** In the course of your duties, challenges will abound—new laws, novel questions, and the relentless evolution of legal thought. The demand to stay relevant grows ever more pressing. You must nurture an unyielding intellectual curiosity; this is not merely a professional chore, but the very lifeblood of your service. Knowledge will be your compass, and the margin between knowing and not knowing may one day decide the course of justice itself.

[9] Yet in this pursuit of knowledge, never lose sight of the human heart that beats beneath the robes and statutes. Beyond the written word lies the pulse of humanity—the lives your advocacy will touch, the hopes you may restore, the dignity you may defend. Approach this power with humility, compassion, and a deep sense of duty. That connection, that human impact, is the true soul of our profession.

[10] On that note, I end my speech and wish you all the best as you embark upon what I hope will be an enjoyable, meaningful, and fulfilling career in the service of justice.

Congratulations!

The Court is now adjourned.

Thank you.

