

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Murali Velautham

This has been a long year and a year of challenge. A year of absence. The absence of many of the things that bring joy, the simple pleasures of social and working life conducted at a distance or under several fluctuating restrictions which are enforced at places of work, Courts, Government bodies including the Land Offices and the list goes on.

For the Selangor Bar there has been the absence of our core activity: regular advocacy in the courtroom, as well advice given face to face and the many, unplanned, interactions with Judges, Court staff and litigants which make up our daily working lives. The pandemic had undoubtedly been a shocking and enormous challenge to the justice system, not only bringing about unexpected short-term changes in the way we work and live, its effect will last far longer.

The Selangor Bar Committee have faced new challenges for the past year and with great privilege of being elected as the Chairman of the Selangor Bar Committee and supported by a Committee of twelve (12) diligent and hardworking members. The activities of each Sub-Committee are in the respective Sub-Committee Chairperson's report. Even though some of the committee could not fulfill their agenda for the term due to the pandemic, I must say these committee Chairman's' have supported and worked diligently with other Committees to solve problems faced our members.

The Committee and I undertook various challenge in tackling issues faced by lawyers. Issues were dealt with promptly and swiftly to resolves challenges faced by our lawyers. Communication with the relevant authorities was also done on a regular basis to discuss the problems faced by our lawyers even though in person meetings could not be conducted due to the pandemic. The use of technology has expended at an impressive rate during the pandemic.

Some of the main problems and achievements by the Selangor Bar Committee are the revival of the Publication Sub-Committee and the publication of Ad-Rem in the month of February 2021; The reduction of RM50.00 of the Annual Subscription for year 2020 due to hardship faced by the members during the pandemic; Hearing of Petition for

Admission as an Advocate and Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya via video conferencing; The ongoing series of meetings with the Pejabat Tanah & Galian Shah Alam and other Land office to rectify various problems faced by our members during the pandemic; Conducting talks via Zoom on various topics.

I am thankful to the Selangor Bar Committee members for giving me this opportunity to serve the members and thank full for all the help and support received from each and every member during this pandemic. I would also like to thank the Honorary Secretary appointed for this term Mr. Gabriel Susayan as well as the secretariat staff who has supported me during this challenging time and worked beyond their working hours to solve every possible problem faced by our members. Also, not forgetting the Legal Aid staff for their hard work and contributions to the Selangor Bar.

Special thanks goes to the Bar Representative A.G Kalidass and the Committee Chair persons Dato' Suraj Singh, Alvin Neo, Kokila Vani Vadiveloo, Amara Binti Abu, Eugene Roy, Nurul Muhaniza Bt Hanafi, Richard Teh, Shantini Koshy, Shanmugahanathan and Vasudevan for their support.

Report Submitted by;

Murali Velautham
Chairman
Selangor Bar Committee