



MINUTES OF THE 55TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF THE SELANGOR BAR HELD ON MONDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT KELAB SHAH ALAM, SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN.

The meeting was called to order at 3.40p.m. by the Chairman of the Selangor Bar Committee (SBC). The Chairman informed the house that the quorum required for the meeting is **358** and at present 360 members are in attendance. Hence, by virtue of section 70(2B) of the Legal Profession Act, the Chairman called the meeting to order. The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance.

The Chairman directed non Selangor Bar members to leave the meeting hall. He then requested members to either switch off their mobile phones or to set them on silent mode. The Chairman also requested pupils to be seated at their designated area and reminded them that they are not allowed to vote. The Chairman informed members to wear their tags throughout the meeting, as those without tags will be asked to leave the hall. He also requested the Secretariat staff and Selangor Legal Aid Centre staff to be seated at the staff table.

The Chairman then requested members who wished to speak from the floor to keep their questions and comments within a 3 minute time frame to ensure other members also get an opportunity to speak as well. The Chairman also reminded those who wished to speak to use the microphones provided and to begin by stating their full name. This is to ensure an accurate recording of the proceedings.

The Chairman also informed the floor that this is a closed-door meeting and it should not be recorded and be used for other purposes.

Before proceeding with the agenda, the Chairman requested all present to rise and observe a minute of silence as a mark of respect for all members who have passed on since the date of the last Annual General Meeting, namely Ahmad Wajih Surairin Bin Sani, Dato' Sri Dr. Sim Ooi Hong, Mohd Yacob Bin Karim, Imerdeep Singh A/L Jagdis Singh, Dato' Kanagasabapathi A/L Shanmugam, Sreedevi Naidu A/P T. Sree Ramalu Naidu, Dato' Balbir Sing Sidhu, Mohammad Afif Bin Daud, Arumugam Deva Rajah, Zaharudin Bin Nain, Rasamani Kandiah, Wan Haron Bin Wan Hassan, Lee Lim Huat, Mah Guek Yah, Dato' Dr. Arunan Selvaraj, Rajehgopal A/L Velu and Mohd Redzuan Bin Nordin.

**ITEM 1 OF AGENDA:**

To consider, and if approved, to adopt the minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th February 2019

- 1.1 There were no amendments to the minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting and the minutes were approved and adopted on the proposal by **Ramesh Lachmanan** and seconded by **Dato' Rajpal Singh**.

ITEM 2 OF AGENDA:

To discuss matters arising there from.

- 2.1 There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3 OF AGENDA:

To consider the Reports on the activities of the Selangor Bar for the year 2019/2020

3.1 Chairman's Report

- 3.1.1 Annou Xavier referred to page 16 & 17 and queried the Chairman whether it is the first Criminal Law Forum, Human Rights Day, and Civil Law Conference organised by the Selangor Bar Committee (SBC) during his tenure as the Chairman.
- 3.1.2 The Chairman replied that the first Criminal Law Forum was organised by Salim Bashir as the Criminal Law Sub-Committee Chairperson. He continued that the Human Rights Day was a first event organised by the SBC and it was graced by the Chief Justice of Sabah and Sarawak. In respect of the Civil Law Conference, the Chairman informed that it was the first for the last 5 terms and it was a 2-day programme held in Concorde Hotel, Shah Alam that featured eminent speakers.
- 3.1.3 Annou Xavier thanked the Chairman and the ex-Chairman Salim Bashir for organising these events under their Chairmanship.
- 3.1.4 The Chairman thanked Annou Xavier.
- 3.1.5 Vishnu Kumar referred to the Chairman's report and the entire annual report and informed that there is no report on Publications. He continued that the Publication sub-



committee was not formed for this term together with the Editorial committee to publish the Adrem magazine. He then queried as to why the sub-committee was not formed. He queried further whether the Publication sub-committee was taken over by the Chairman or any other members. He added further that as of 24th February 2020 the digital form of the Adrem Magazine was not uploaded in the SBC's website and secondly on 9th January 2020 there was an email blast sent to all the members of Selangor Bar requesting for members with a background in journalism to assist in preparation and completion of the Adrem Magazine. He informed that for the past 1 year the Adrem magazine has not been prepared.

- 3.1.6 The Chairman admitted that the sub-committee was not formed and there were certain issues with the Publication sub-committee. He then informed that the Adrem magazine has been prepared and ready for printing and that is when the motion to go digital was brought up.
- 3.1.7 In respect of the circular dated 9th January 2020, the Chairman informed that the SBC was not having sufficient members in the Publication sub-committee and a circular was issued requesting members with a background in journalism to come forward to assist the SBC to complete and prepare the Adrem Magazine. He added that as of today, 24th February 2020, the materials for the Adrem Magazine were ready subject to the motion which will be tabled later.
- 3.1.8 Vishnu Kumar informed that the Chairman did not answer his query because if at all the Adrem magazine is ready the SBC should have uploaded it in the website pending the motion to be carried out relating to the cost of printing and postage only and there is no reason to wait for the motion to be carried out.
- 3.1.9 The Chairman replied that there was difficulty in convening the Publication sub-committee. He added further that the materials for the Adrem are ready, subject to the motion being passed whether to digitise or retain as hard copy.
- 3.1.10 Dato' Rajpal Singh then queried why if all the work had been completed no meeting of the Publication Sub-committee was held and no meeting was convened with the editorial board. He further added that the editorial board had existed since 1998. Dato' Rajpal Singh also pointed out that the editorial board was not called in to assist with the Adrem magazine for the whole of last year until January of this year. He went on to add



that all of a sudden it was decided to conduct certain interviews and also prepare other articles on a very urgent basis.

- 3.1.11 Dato' Rajpal Singh also wanted to know why when full autonomy was given to the various sub-committees to undertake their functions, the same was not accorded to the editorial board as was done by the previous Chairmen.
- 3.1.12 The Chairman replied that the editorial board which consisted of Biliwi Singh, Dato' Rajpal Singh and Jeyaseelan was contacted by the Executive Secretary of Selangor Bar and there were suggestions provided by the team for the intended interviews. The matter was deliberated at the committee level during one of the monthly SBC meetings and it was decided that it would not be appropriate to interview politicians. The Chairman informed that once this decision was made, some members were reluctant to contribute their service further to the publication sub-committee.
- 3.1.13 The Chairman reminded Dato' Rajpal Singh on the conversation they had earlier on the difficulty of the publication sub-committee at one stage but nevertheless the editorial board was contacted by the Executive Secretary and Dato' Rajpal Singh was busy with his schedule and could not come back to the SBC in time. He added that in respect of the articles, Jeyaseelan has compiled and submitted to the Secretariat. In respect of the interviews, the SBC had it shortlisted to two (2) names and those interviews were conducted. He added that Dato' Rajpal Singh was also in attendance during one of the interviews.
- 3.1.14 Dato' Rajpal Singh replied to the Chairman that the editorial board was only contacted in January 2020 and this can be verified with the Executive Secretary of Selangor Bar and no action was taken to contact the editorial board during the whole of 2019. He added further that the Editorial Board does not only consist of him, Biliwi Singh and Jeyaseelan, but also includes S. Ravichandran, George Varughese (now High Court Judge), Balan Nair and many others. Dato' Rajpal Singh informed that the Chairman did not take the initiative to contact the editorial board and ask who sits in the editorial board. He added that the Chairman only requested the Executive Secretary to make these calls in January 2020. He continued that the Chairmen asked the Executive Secretary of the Selangor Bar to make these calls whereas all the past Chairmen have taken initiatives to call the editorial board members themselves. He then queried whether the editorial board is not worthy to be called by the Chairman of the Selangor Bar.



- 3.1.15 Dato' Rajpal Singh admitted that the Executive Secretary did try to call him but he was unable to attend to it. However, in spite of the Chairman not personally contacting him, Dato' Rajpal Singh did attend one of the interviews that was held given the camaraderie existing between the editorial board and the SBC.
- 3.1.16 Biliwi Singh informed the Chairman that he was the Editor of the Adrem magazine from the day it was started and he has served many Chairmen and committees. All the Chairmen had allowed the editorial board to conduct interviews of reputable people within the bar and outside. He added that the magazine and interviews were well received and accepted by the members, judges and foreign law associations. However, he added that the last 2 committees had interfered with the work of the Editorial Board. He was even instructed on whom to interview and what to say during the interviews. It was his view that the Selangor Bar does not practice freedom of speech but only promotes it. He continued that if the Adrem survives in the hardcopy format the future Chairman should understand and not interfere with the editorial work.
- 3.1.17 The Chairman thanked and acknowledged Biliwi Singh for his contribution as the editor of the Adrem magazine. He then informed the floor that as a Chairman he depends on the Selangor Bar secretariat staff and the committee members to do the work. The Chairman is only as good as his committee with the support of the secretariat staff. He continued that the Adrem magazine is going to be published, either as hardcopy or in a digital format based on the motion put forward. With respect to the choice of the interviews, the Chairman informed that it was not only during his term but also during previous terms where the committee of the Selangor Bar took the decision about dictating the persons to be interviewed. The policy was to exclude politicians and remain neutral. He added that this committee and the last committee under the Chairmanship of A.G. Kalidas made the same decision.
- 3.1.18 Dato' Rajpal Singh stated that the Chairman did not answer his question yet which was why the editorial board had not been approached by the Chairman or the committee during the whole of last year. He continued that the Executive Secretary was only requested to contact him in January 2020. Instead of relying on the Secretariat staff, the Chairman should have directly contacted the editorial board as was practised by all the previous Chairmen. He added that we are all busy practitioners and the Chairman is relying on the committee and the secretariat staff but the Secretariat staff has been working with the SBC for a very long time and they are competent. He added that keeping aside political figures, the editorial board would have proposed new names for



the interviews and worked together with the Chairman. Instead of this, unfortunately, the Chairman relied on the committee and to compound matters, no freedom was given to the editorial board.

3.1.19 The Chairman replied that he and Dato' Rajpal Singh had a conversation earlier but there was no need to go into the contents of the conversation. He then conceded that he did not personally call every member of the editorial board but relied on his committee assisted by the secretariat staff. The Chairman then extended his apologies for not personally calling the editorial board and no offense was meant.

3.1.20 Gerard Lazarus thanked the Chairman for his explanation and requested to move on as he has extended his apologies.

3.1.21 The Chairman thanked Gerard Lazarus.

Civil Practice & Court Liaison

3.2.1 Shanker Sundram recorded his appreciation towards Kokila Vaani and the SBC as family law practice at the Shah Alam Court was quite a hassle around early last year and Kokila Vaani and the SBC had intervened and the issues have been resolved.

3.2.2 The Chairman thanked Shanker Sundaram.

3.2.3 KA Ramu raised an issue where there were no policeman on duty in the family court at the Shah Alam Court during one of his cases and the situation turned violent. He then hoped that the SBC will look into this issue.

3.2.4 Shanker Sundaram also agreed that this issue is happening at the family court, Shah Alam family court.

3.2.5 The Chairman referred the floor to page 38 of the report, issue No.5 and informed that the said issue has been raised with the Managing Judge and the reply is stated in the report.

3.2.6 Arudkumaran referred to page 23 and informed that the Civil Law Court Liaison Sub-Committee has done a good job. He added that there is an issue where he needed clarification whether the court can come up with a directive to stop plaintiff lawyers



from recording consent judgement where the money is to be paid to the plaintiff's solicitors clients' accounts. He continued that the SBC has to make a stand on this issue whereby by putting the money into the client's account is much safer for both parties because in many cases, the plaintiff is bankrupt or paralyzed, cannot go to bank and open a bank account on his own. Arudkumaran hoped the incoming committee to bring this issue up with the courts and especially in Selangor because of a decision by one of the High Court Judge which made matters worse and Arudumaran believes that the judge was wrong in that decision on denying plaintiff's solicitors from putting money into the client's account. He also informed that as every lawyer is governed by the solicitor's remuneration ordinance and for renewal of practicing certificate and lawyers must get their clients' accounts audited so the chances of lawyers running away with clients money is very rare.

- 3.2.7 The Chairman informed Arudkumaran that there is a decision made by a High Court Judge at the Shah Alam High Court and we are bound by the decision and the affected parties have appealed to the Court of Appeal on the decision but he is unaware of the appeal status. The Chairman continued that immediately after the circular was issued (which is shown in page 23) the SBC felt that the circular was unnecessary and immediately met the Pengarah of the Selangor Courts to have this circular retracted and explained the position and let each court decide how to interpret the decision made by the particular Judge. The Chairman added that the Pengarah agreed with SBC and on that very day the circular was retracted. He continued that he has not been advised whether the appeal went through or not but he understood the concern of the practitioners in respect of the decision as we are bound by the binding precedent or unless there is another decision from another high court which comes out on the same jurisdiction.

Constitutional Law, Human Rights & Environment

- 3.3.1 Annou Xavier referred to page 51 and thanked the committee for organising a talk by the well-known Paul Jambunathan on 'A Psychological Potpourri' – A New Recipe Towards Well-Being'. Annou Xavier also proposed to the incoming committee to organise more such talks.



- 3.3.2 The Chairman thanked Annou Xavier and agreed that the practice of law is stressful and the SBC will organise such events on stress reduction and how to deal with stress. He then informed that the incoming committee will organise more such events.

Criminal Practce & Court Liaison

- 3.4.1 Major Haji Azman Bin Haji Zakaria referred to page 63 and thanked the SBC for organising a well conducted forum entitled ‘Frontier of the Criminal Justice System’.
- 3.4.2 The Chairman thanked Major Hj Azman Bin Haji Zakaria.
- 3.4.3 Dara Waheda referred to page 37, Issue no.2 and queried the Chairman as to the outcome of the matter.
- 3.4.4 The Chairman replied that the issue of Death Certificate in LA Matters has been raised with the Managing Judge and the Managing Judge informed that he will take it up with the Chief Judge of the Malaya (CJM) on this issue and we are yet to receive any reply from him. The Chairman further informed that the incoming committee will follow up.
- 3.4.5 Vishnu Kumar referred to page 65 – Meeting with the Pengarah Pendakwaan Negeri Selangor (PPN) and informed that the issues raised were not stated in the report in order for members to know on the work the SBC has done throughout the year. He added the report must include the issues raised, issues resolved and ongoing issues. Vishnu Kumar further informed that in the same report it has been stated that delays in reply to representation made to the Attorney Generals Chambers by Criminal Practitioners has been escalated to the Criminal Committee, Bar Council and queried as to how the matter was escalated.
- 3.4.6 The Chairman replied to Vishnu Kumar that the reason the issues raised were not stated in the report as upon the meeting with the PPN Selangor a circular was sent out to members on the report of the meeting. Secondly, the Chairman informed that the issue of delays in reply to representation made to the Attorney Generals Chambers by Criminal Practitioners was escalated by the Criminal Sub-committee Chairperson to the Co-Chairman of the Criminal Committee, BC. He admitted that there are short comings in the report because it could be better done as pointed out by Vishnu Kumar and informed that the incoming committee will look into it.



Selangor Legal Aid Centre (LAC) & YBGK

- 3.5.1 KA Ramu referred to page 67 & 68 of the report and informed that the outstanding payment to the Selangor YBGK Lawyers was around RM600k when he was serving as the SLAC Chairperson and queried as to how much is the outstanding payment as of now.
- 3.5.2 The Chairman replied that as at February 2020 a sum of RM820,000.00 is owed by the National YBGK to Selangor YBGK lawyers. He also informed that the President of the Malaysian Bar is also on the Board of Directors of the YBGK and he has assisted the Selangor Bar by having the National YBGK to prioritise the settlement of the Selangor YBGK claims. He continued there was a recent meeting held on 8th February 2020, where the Chairman personally attended the meeting and met the relevant officer of National YBGK and informed that there is a plan to put in place from 27th February 2020 where the Selangor Bar will be sending one (1) Selangor YBGK staff on weekly basis to be there and clear the records for 2015 and 2016. He added further that for 3 months of year 2015, there were 40 YBGK lawyers who have not been paid or had their claims slashed and that issues were still pending. The Chairman hoped that the National YBGK office will be cooperating with us to look into disbursing the claims as soon as possible.
- 3.5.3 KA Ramu informed the Chairman that when a lawyer or a student from YBGK represents an OKT, the judges really appreciate them but unfortunately some people outside the court or in office are not treating the YBGK lawyers very well especially on the payment part. He added that YBGK lawyers travel very far distances for cases and the payment is a small amount and yet it is not paid properly to them and something is wrong and requested the future committee to look into this matter. He added that the courts are always very helpful and perhaps the SBC must liaise with the courts and look into the welfare of YBGK lawyers.
- 3.5.4 The Chairman informed that we must understand that after the last meeting we have a scheme to put in place now and the National YBGK owes payment to all state bar YBGK Lawyers and with the assistance of the BC President, they have prioritised the Selangor YBGK lawyer's claims first. He added that the YBGK services are respected and highly looked upon in all courts and he agreed with KA Ramu that sometimes YBGK lawyers felt they are not appreciated but the services are fully respected by fellow lawyers including the SBC. He added that the SBC has been pushing for claims



since 4 terms ago and this term we have a resolution and there is a scheme in place on the YBGK claims and based on the meeting on 8th of February, 2020 these claims will be cleared account by account and we hope that after a timetable is put in place on the claims the incoming committee will update the members from time to time.

- 3.5.5 KA Ramu pointed out to the Chairman that young practitioners are joining the scheme as YBGK lawyers but they have to wait for the claims for a very long time.
- 3.5.6 The Chairman replied that the SBC is not the payer and the payments are received from the National YBGK office. He added that once the YBGK lawyers submit their claims to the Selangor YBGK centre, we will forward it to the national YBGK office and they will process the claims and release the payments to us. He added that we do understand the grievances of YBGK lawyers serving under the scheme but the SBC is merely a conduit in this scheme.

Selangor Bar Representative

- 3.6.1 Annou Xavier referred to page 124 and thanked A.G. Kalidas and the Chairman for securing the deal with the LexisNexis only for Selangor Bar members.
- 3.6.2 The Chairman thanked Annou Xavier and informed that the agreement is still ongoing until the next AGM.
- 3.6.3 Salim Bashir commended A.G. Kalidas for his good work and comprehensive report. Salim Bashir assured the members present that A.G. Kalidas has been in the Bar Council for many years since the year Salim Bashir came to the council and has articulated the interests of the members. He should be well received as one of the best persons that the Selangor Bar has accepted by nominating him to be elected as the Bar Representative of Selangor Bar.
- 3.6.4 The Chairman thanked Salim Bashir.
- 3.6.5 Pushpa Ratnam thanked the Chairman and committee members including A.G. Kalidas for their extremely well done job this term especially in organising of the Criminal Law Forum, Human Right Film Festival with the keynote address by the CJSS, the Inaugural Civil Law Conference, Hari Raya and Deepavali visit to orphanages. She then



congratulated each of the committee members for the good work and hoped that each and every committee member will consider to come back for the next term.

3.6.6 The Chairman thanked Pushpa Ratnam.

ITEM 4 OF AGENDA:

To consider, and if approved, to adopt the Audited Accounts of the Selangor Bar for the year ending 31st December, 2019

- 4.1 Jeremy Ee Eng Joo echoed Pushpa Ratnam's comments and congratulated the committee for the good work done. He then referred to page 153 - 166 of the accounts and informed that he noticed that there's a deficit of RM228, 930.00 and the total administrative and general expenses is RM1,873,446.00 and the salary and overtime is RM504681.00 plus Bonus and allowances RM147,529.00 and queried whether the administrative and general expenses amount to RM1.24 million after deducting the salary and bonuses paid. He then informed that if the deficit is divided from the total income we have a shortfall of 12% and queried whether the subscription will be increased for the following term as the SBC's financial status is not healthy.
- 4.2 The Chairman referred to page 153 and replied that if we look at the income of 2018 and 2019 there is a difference of RM130k. He added that in 2018 the income from the Annual Dinner & Dance (D&D) is RM102,550.00 held at the Sheraton Hotel PJ on a bigger scale and in 2019 was RM69,900.00 which was held in Concorde Hotel, Shah Alam on a smaller scale and there is a difference of RM50k. He continued that there is an allocation from the National Legal Aid Center (NLAC) for the renovation done to the Selangor Legal Aid Center (SLAC) amounting to RM111,000.00 and in 2018 there was a donation of RM25,000.00 from Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram to the Selangor Bar's library. He continued that this year for talks and seminars there was an increment of RM40k compared to 2018 as we have organised more seminars and the usage of the auditorium. He continued that two (2) of the tenants at the top floor of the current SBC building who were paying a rental of RM6800.00 per month have moved out and it was a big loss and we only have one (1) tenant at the moment who is paying RM3,000.00 monthly. He added that hence we can see the vast difference in the income. In respect of the 12% stated by Jeremy Ee Eng Joo, the Chairman informed that he's not an accountant and he won't be able to answer that question.



- 4.3 Puspa Ratnam informed that there should be an applause for Dato' Suraj Singh who has actually organised the social activity and social events at a very reasonable cost. She then referred to page 153, expenditure of the D&D and informed that the expenditure was very much less compared to 2018.
- 4.4 The Chairman thanked Pushpa Ratnam for her comments.
- 4.5 Sandosh Anandan referred to page 166 and requested the Chairman to explain the discrepancies on bonuses and allowances paid in 2019 compared to 2018.
- 4.6 The Chairman replied that initially after purchasing two new buildings for the SBC we have increased the staff capacity with additional 2 new staff in the year 2019. With regard to the bonus in 2019, he informed that the bonus for the 2018 was paid out in January 2019 and the bonus for 2019 was paid in December 2019. Therefore, taking the accounts of the annual increments and bonuses for the staff there is an increment in the bonuses and allowances.
- 4.7 Dara Waheda echoed Puspa Ratnam's comment and congratulated Dato' Suraj Singh despite of not having any sub-committee members he has managed to successfully organise the social events and managed to bring down the cost.
- 4.8 The Chairman thanked Dara Waheda.
- 4.9 Jeremy Ee Eng Joo suggested to the Chairman that to solve this confusion, perhaps a breakdown of the bonuses and increment of the Selangor Bar staff should be mentioned for easy understanding in the future.
- 4.10 The Chairman replied that the accounts are prepared by the auditors and they have a certain way of reporting accounts but we will request them to give detailed breakdowns in the future.
- 4.11 Dato' Rajpal Singh referred to page 153 on the income and expenditures of the functions under item 9 and item 10 and informed that some money has come in for the functions as stated in page 164 and there are other events where no money was collected or no sponsorship came in from outside and as such queried whether the cost of organising those functions was borne from the Selangor Bar's fund. He added that there is an increase in the loss of RM20,000.00 compared to 2018.



- 4.12 The Chairman replied that there was an income for certain functions such as Hari Raya and Deepavali visits to orphanages for which we have received sponsorship from members.
- 4.13 Dato' Rajpal Singh informed that the income is only from 4 events and the rest of the functions were not reflected in the income part. He added that he supports the organising of such events but we are running on deficit and we can't be continuing. Dato' Rajpal Singh informed further that it is not fair because Selangor Bar members are paying RM260.00 for the state bar subscription which is the highest in Malaysia currently compare to other state bars. He then requested to the incoming committee to try to manage the funds to reduce the deficit.
- 4.14 The Chairman noted and referred to page 158 and informed that it shows a vast difference because of the income received from last year's income.
- 4.15 Dato' Rajpal Singh informed that even last year it was deficit and also the years before. He is proposing to the committee to spend prudently.
- 4.16 The Chairman informed that the incoming committee will look into it.
- 4.17 Tan Peck Guat appreciated the good work the SBC has done. She informed that she will be more appreciative if the SBC could provide a list of lawyers to whom she can approach as fellow lawyers at certain times when lawyers need assistance. She also queried whether will it be possible that the SBC has a list of lawyers who are willing to assist fellow lawyers in times of need in their daily living and to set up a board. She informed that we need to serve and help fellow lawyers throughout Selangor.
- 4.18 The Chairman queried whether she is a member of the Selangor Bar.
- 4.19 Tan Peek Guat replied that she is a Selangor Bar member. She further informed that at times of need where she wants to know how to solve a simple issue but she is unable to as she does not know whom to contact.
- 4.20 The Chairman informed Tan Peck Guat that her point is duly noted and the incoming committee will look into it but informed that we are now discussing on the accounts.



- 4.21 Arudkumaran informed the Chairman that we do not know what is happening to the Malaysian government at the current situation which is going to impact the BC and proposed to the Chairman not to increase the state bar subscription fee. He then informed that majority of lawyers are facing problems with the e-filing and online application for certificate and hope the incoming committee to look into it and bring it up with the relevant authority. He then thanked the Chairman and the committee for a job well done.
- 4.22 The Chairman thanked Arudkumaran.
- 4.23 Lee Keong Hee referred to page 166 and informed that subscription in arrears written off amounting to RM50,480.00 and queried whether the amount of written off subscription are not from members of the Selangor Bar.
- 4.24 The Chairman replied that some of the Selangor Bar members when they leave Selangor Bar or cease practice, they fail to notify the Selangor Bar on their status and only informed the BC. He added that the database of BC and the Selangor Bar does not synchronise which will reflect in the accounts as such.
- 4.25 The Audited Accounts were then approved, proposed by Jeremy Ee Eng Joo and seconded by Gerard Lazarus.

ITEM 5 OF AGENDA :

To fix the Annual Subscription for the year 2020.

- 5.1 The Chairman proposed to the floor to retain the annual subscription fees at RM260.00 for the years 2020.
- 5.2 Pushpa Ratnam informed the Chairman that she does not receive any emails/circulars/information from the Selangor Bar through her email and she has brought it up at the last AGM. She added that the other lawyer in her firm does not also receive the emails as well and maybe it is because there are 2 branches which is located in KL and Selangor. She then requested the secretariat to look into this matter.
- 5.3 The Chairman informed Pushpa Ratnam that there is a SBC WhatsApp group for members to receive latest information of the Selangor Bar but they need to contact the Secretariat to have their number registered in the Selangor Bar's WhatsApp group. He



then informed that the Selangor Bar does also sent out emails, upload information in the website and FB.

- 5.4 The floor unanimously approved to retain the annual subscription at RM260.00 and the Chairman then declared the same.

ITEM 6 OF AGENDA :

To consider Motion/s tabled

- 6.1 Alvin Neo as the Honorary Secretary of the Selangor Bar for the term 2019/20 referred the floor to page 4 at paragraph E of the motion and proposed to amend the year from 2021 to 2020.
- 6.2 The Chairman requested the views of the floor on the proposed motion.
- 6.3 Jeremy Ee Eng Joo queried the Chairman whether do we will still get a hardcopy if the members agree to proceed with the digitalisation of the magazine.
- 6.4 The Chairman replied yes.
- 6.5 Richard Wee informed the Chairman that from his view, he felt that it is an administrative issue as according to the LPA the committee can decide whether to digitalise the magazine or not and need not bring it to the AGM for members to decide because if the motion is defeated then the committee has no choice but to print hardcopies for every member of the Selangor Bar. He continued that if the motion went through, not many members use CD Rom anymore and the cost of posting the CD Rom is as good as printing a hardcopy. He added that if posting costs more, members can pick up the hardcopies from the secretariat. He added that his view is that PDF format is fine but personally this resolution is unnecessary.
- 6.6 Dato' Rajpal Singh informed that he will reply on behalf of the Chairman and explained to the floor that in 2009 this motion was put forward in the AGM and it was not carried out and because of that the committee has decided to bring back the motion for tabling.
- 6.7 Dato' Rajpal Singh further informed that he is also against the motion. He added that the earlier motion was put in during his Chairmanship and it was shot down and he



agreed with the views raised then. He then informed that he agrees that cost is the main factor but then urged the committee to reconsider the motion. He then suggested to print a hard copy to be given to all the firms only so that every member can have a copy in their archives . Dato' Rajpal Singh added that the Adrem magazine started in 1998 and the library has a hard copy since 1998 too. Many articles were published, many interviews were done, many prominent figures who are sitting here has been interviewed such as Haji Sulaiman & Hendon Mohamad & S.S. Muker, many past Chairmen of the Selangor Bar and Tun Dr. Mahathir. He added that the magazine carries so much history of the Selangor Bar since 1998 and if we stop the publication of hard copies that will be the end of the history of the Selangor Bar. He then informed not many of us keep CD Rom as it is becoming obsolete and will not serve the purpose. He added that PDF will serve the purpose and hardcopies for only every law firm in Selangor will bring down the cost. He also proposed that if the postage is expensive, the committee can request the law firms to collect from the Selangor Bar.

- 6.8 Dato' Rajpal Singh then informed that the cost is going up in tandem with the increase of membership of the SBC. He added that there should be more funds as the membership is increasing and the subscription fee has been increased. He added that initially the subscription was RM100.00 and has been increased to RM200.00 over the years and the SBC should give back to the members. He proposed to cut down the number of printed hardcopies and to go by the number of firms but do not stop hardcopies at all and to consider amending the motion.
- 6.9 Gerard Lazarus informed that he was the first photographer for the Adrem magazine and this is the magazine that shows back our history and he is agreeable with the reasons given by Dato' Rajpal Singh that hard copy should be maintained and if the magazine can't be posted the SBC can request the law firms to self-collect from the SBC.
- 6.10 Dato' David Gurupatham informed that he is in agreement with Dato' Rajpal Singh and Gerard Lazarus that it is good for the Selangor Bar members and young members to have a hard copy of the Adrem magazine. In respect of the cost, Dato' David Gurupatham suggested that we can cut down the printed copies by just printing for every firm.
- 6.11 Dato' Haaziq Pillai informed that he is in total support of Dato' Rajpal Singh and Dato' David Gurupatham's views. He added that there is a simple reason as not everyone reads the pdf copy and people have forgotten the aesthetic value of a printed book. He



added that members are paying RM260.00 subscription to the Selangor Bar and it is the least the SBC can do for the members. He added that the magazine started in 1998 and it carries the history of the state bar and there are many ways to cut down the cost. He continued that members are not purchasing any law books and it is happening to the profession. He then urged the committee to publish the magazine in a hardcopy format at least one (1) copy to each firm in Selangor.

- 6.12 Vishnu Kumar informed the Chairman that the Adrem magazine is a tradition and we should not stop the tradition of the Selangor Bar. He proposed that we amend the motion that we will print a hardcopy magazine for every law firm in Selangor including branches.
- 6.13 Pushpa Ratnam informed that she supports a hard copy format of the magazine and she has all the collection of Adrem magazines at her office library. She added maybe the SBC can consider getting sponsors from legal firms which may help towards the cost cutting of the publication.
- 6.14 Dato' Haji Sulaiman Bin Abdullah informed that he agreed with all the views by members present which is against the digitalising of the magazine. The print copy of Adrem magazine has to be always there in the reception of the Selangor Bar, so people will know what the SBC has done. Even every BC member gets a copy every year, the entire Malaysian bar is informed of the activities and events of the SBC. He then informed that he is against the motion.
- 6.15 Dato' Rajpal Singh informed that what Dato' Haji Sulaiman Bin Abdullah is correct, the Adrem Magazine not only goes to all the members of the Bar of Selangor but also to all state Bars, Judges in Shah Alam, and Bar in other countries. He added that if we do away with the hardcopy many people will not know what Selangor Bar has done over the years. He then proposed to the Chairman to reconsider the decision and not to proceed with the motion.
- 6.16 The Chairman thanked Dato' Rajpal Singh for his views.
- 6.17 Salim Bashir informed that he is in agreement with all the views put forward by the members present. He continued that 2 weeks ago the Bar Council had issued the Praxis magazine in a digital format to all the Malaysian Bar members and looking at the statistic not many members have actually read it. He added that the same will happen



to the Adrem magazine if we digitalise it in the future. He added that we can amend the motion according to the suggestions which have been put forward by members that to print hardcopy according to the number of firms or the floor will oppose the whole motion.

- 6.18 The Chairman summarised the views and suggestions put forward and informed that each branch of Selangor Bar including branches will get a hardcopy and pdf format will also be prepared. The Chairman informed that he will amend the motion and after discussing with the Honorary Secretary informed that to have show of hands on the number of members against and for the motion.
- 6.19 Dato' Rajpal Singh suggested that the Chairman amend the motion and then put it to the floor for approval. He then informed that every law firm including branches to get 1 hard copy of Adrem magazine and the rest in pdf format as the majority of the members present are in agreement with the proposal.
- 6.20 Tan Peck Guat suggested to the Chairman that the Selangor Bar should follow other companies where to send the notice of AGM with a form where members can reply whether they need a hardcopy of the Adrem magazine or not as sending a hardcopy to every firm is a waste of money. She added that members have the right to have a hardcopy and for those who do not reply please ignore.
- 6.21 Annou Xavier proposed the amendment to the motion: It is hereby resolve that the members of the Selangor Bar agree to one hardcopy of Adrem magazine to be sent to one law firm including its branches in Selangor Bar.
- 6.22 The Chairman referred to the **paragraph (F) and further informed the amended proposal; WHEREAS** the Selangor Bar Committee, now comes before this august house to seek its approval to digitalise the Newsletter Adrem of the Selangor Bar and to have a hard copy be provided to each law firm including its branches in the Selangor Bar.
- 6.23 Puspha Ratnam queried whether the branches only in Selangor Bar. The Chairman replied only law firms and branches in Selangor will receive a hardcopy.
- 6.24 The Chairman then read the amended motion to the floor and requested if there are any objections to the amended motion.



- 6.25 Pushpa Ratnam opposed the motion saying that she is paying her subscription and she needs a copy to be sent to her firm in KL.
- 6.26 There were 2 members who abstained from voting and the rest of the floor approved the amended motion.
- 6.27 The Chairman informed that the amended motion has been approved by the members present with 2 members abstaining.
- 6.28 Gerard Lazarus informed the Chairman that recently he is receiving messages from members that their names are not in the list and so on with regard to the elections. He informed that we do not need to do this as there are procedures in place where names must be nominated, voting and so on and members are not automatically elected.
- 6.29 Salim Bashir thanked the Chairman and the outgoing committee and Bar representative for all the hard work done. He then suggested to proceed with Item 7 and 9 together before we proceed with Item 8 of the Agenda.
- 6.30 The Chairman queried if there is any objection to the proposal and if none we will take Item 7 and 9 first and followed by Item 8 of the Agenda.

ITEM 7 OF AGENDA:

To elect one (1) member as Chairman of the Selangor Bar Committee for the year 2019/2020.

- 7.1 The Chairman invited Hendon Mohamad to preside over items 7, 8 and 9 of the Agenda.
- 7.2 Hendon Mohamed called for the nomination of candidates for Chairman of the Selangor Bar Committee for the ensuing year.
- 7.3 Bernard Scott was proposed by Nor Hishamuddin and seconded by Dato' Haji Sulaiman Bin Abdullah.
- 7.4 Kokilaa Vani Vadiveloo was proposed by G. Sugania.



- 7.5 Kokilaa Vani Vadiveloo declined the nomination.
- 7.6 Murali Velautham was proposed by Jane Pragasam and seconded by Nadarajan
- 7.7 As there were no other nominations, Hendon Mohamad invited 5 members to be appointed to oversee and scrutinise the voting. Gerard Lazarus, Ramesh Lachmanan, Hanani, Wee Su Lin, Dato' Haaziq Pillai were appointed to be the scrutinisers.
- 7.8 Hendon Mohamad invited Bernard Scott and Murali Velautham to introduce themselves to the floor and say a few words. The ballot papers were distributed by the secretariat staff to the members and thereafter voting by secret ballot took place.
- 7.9 While the counting of ballot papers were carried out, Hendon Mohamad proceeded with the election of the Selangor Bar's Representative.
- 7.10 Hendon Mohamad later announced the results of the election for Chairman of the Selangor Bar:
- | | |
|------------------|------|
| Bernard Scott | :158 |
| Murali Velautham | :169 |
| Spoilt Votes | :13 |
- Hendon Mohamad then declared Murali Velautham as Selangor Bar's Chairman for the year 2020/2021.

ITEM 9 OF AGENDA:

To elect one (1) member to represent Selangor Bar on the Bar Council for the year 2020/2021.

- 9.1 Hendon Mohamad called for the nomination of candidates for Selangor Bar's Representative to the Bar Council for the ensuing year.
- 9.2 A.G. Kalidas was proposed by Dato' Rajpal Singh and seconded by Vishnu Kumar.
- 9.3 Farez Jinnah was proposed by Richard Wee and seconded by Kiu Jia Yaw.
- 9.4 There being no other nominations, Dato' Suraj Singh proposed nominations to be closed, seconded by Salim Bashir.



- 9.5 Hendon Mohamad informed the members that the candidates do not want to give a speech and members are requested to carry on with the voting. The ballot papers were distributed by the secretariat staff to the members and thereafter voting by secret ballot took place.
- 9.6 Hendon Mohamad informed the floor that only one ballot paper is allowed for one member and member should not take more than one ballot paper.
- 9.7 While the counting of ballot papers were carried out, Hendon Mohamad proceeded with the election of the ten members of the Selangor Bar Committee.
- 9.8 Pushpa Ratnam informed Hendon Mohamad that the candidates were not given a chance to introduce themselves.
- 9.9 Hendon Mohamad replied that she already informed the floor that the 2 candidates have informed that they do not want to deliver a speech.
- 9.10 Hendon Mohamad later announced the results of the election for Selangor Bar's Representative to the Bar Council :
- | | |
|--------------|------|
| A.G. Kalidas | :225 |
| Farez Jinnah | :82 |

Hendon Mohamad then declared A.G. Kalidas as the Selangor Bar's Representative to the Bar Council for 2020/2021.

ITEM 8 OF AGENDA:

To elect ten (10) members as members of the Selangor Bar Committee for the year 2020/2021.

- 8.1 Hendon Mohamad called for nominations for the ten (10) committee members for the year 2020/2021.
- 8.2 The following candidates were nominated for election as committee members:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
1.	Nurul Muhaniza	Rizlan B. Ghazali	Sarah Kambali



2.	Dato' Suraj Singh	Vishnu Kumar	Dato' Rajpal Singh
3.	Eugene Roy	Dato' Rajpal Singh	Vishnu Kumar
4.	Gabriel Susayan	Dato' Suraj Singh	Datin Rajpreet kaur
5.	Kokila Vaani	Salim Bashir	A.G. Kalidas
6.	Alvin Neo	Kelvin Kong	Gabriel Susayan
7.	Vasudevan	Gabriel Susayan	Mishant Thiruchelvam
8.	Shanker Sundaram	Dato' Suraj Singh	Satwinderjit Kaur
9.	Amara Binti Abu	Satwinderjit Kaur	Murali Velautham
10.	Richard Teh	Bernard Scott	Farez Jinnah
11.	Tan Peek Guat	Bernie Su	Joy Appukuttan
12.	Khairul Aiman	Farez Jinnah	C M Maran

- 8.3 Pushpa Ratnam proposed the nominations for the committee to be closed as maybe the candidates who did not make it as the representative to the bar would want to join as the committee.
- 8.4 Hendon Mohamad informed the floor to write the names of the chosen candidate and not the numbers alone.
- 8.5 Mishant Thiruchelvam proposed the nominations to be closed, seconded by Salim Bashir.
- 8.6 Dato' Rajpal Singh proposed to the incoming Chairman to consider to take 10 committee members and co-op the remaining 2 candidates or else we need not go for an election and we can close the meeting early after the results of the Representative to the Bar Council.
- 8.7 The incoming Chairman agreed to accept the proposal.
- 8.8 Dato' Rajpal Singh then informed that 2 of the candidates must withdraw in order to be co-opted later as committee and requested if any 2 candidates can withdraw.
- 8.9 Farez Jinnah suggested that we proceed with the election as 12 members have been nominated.
- 8.10 Salim Bashir informed that the incoming Chairman has agreed to the proposal and therefore he suggest that no election to be held for committee.



- 8.11 Tan Peck Guat voiced out that it is not proper for lawyers to behave in such a manner to request a candidate to withdraw. She added that it is proper to have an election as we have 12 nominations.
- 8.12 Hendon Mohamad requested that Tan Peck Guat not raise her voice.
- 8.13 Dato' Rajpal Singh demanded that Tan Peek Guat not to raise her voice as the suggestion is that if 2 of the candidates can unanimously agree to withdraw and be co-opted later so that we no need to proceed with an election and all can go back early.
- 8.14 Tan Peck Guat apologised to Dato' Rajpal Singh and informed that her reason is that there should be a proper election.
- 8.15 Komathi Arunasalam informed Hendon Mohamad that members present are entitled to vote and the number of nomination does not matter and it is not right that certain group decide for other members and there should be election.
- 8.16 Sandosh Anandhan informed Hendon Mohamad that the idea of the suggestion is that we have 12 nominations and the incoming Chairman has agreed to take in all 12 members as the committee whereby 10 members now without election and co-op the other 2 members. He added that we are not taking away anyone's rights.
- 8.17 Tan Peck Guat pointed out that we have 12 nominations and not 10 nominations and we should have a proper election in order to know the elected member to serve as the committee.
- 8.18 Dato' Rajpal Singh informed that since some members want to proceed with the election they should wait until the final counting of the results as the idea was to go back early.
- 8.19 Alvin Neo declined his nomination as he agreed with the proposal by Dato' Rajpal Singh.
- 8.20 As the 11 remaining candidates declined to withdraw, Hendon Mohamad proceeded with the elections.



- 8.21 A.G. Kalidas informed Hendon Mohamad that earlier Alvin Neo has volunteered to withdrew his nominations with regard to the proposal but since there is an election process it is only fair to include his name back.
- 8.22 Hendon Mohamad agreed and informed that now we are back with 12 nominations for the committee members. The ballot papers were distributed by the secretariat staff to the members and thereafter voting by secret ballot took place.
- 8.23 Hendon Mohamad informed the members that we will proceed with item 9 of the agenda awaiting the results of the election.
- 8.24 Hendon Mohamad later announced the results of the election for committee members and declared the ten candidates with the most number of votes as the elected Selangor Bar Committee members for the ensuing term, as follows:

No.	Name	Votes
1.	<i>Kokila Vaani</i>	<i>199</i>
2.	<i>Alvin Neo</i>	<i>183</i>
3.	<i>Eugene Roy</i>	<i>170</i>
4.	<i>Gabriel Susayan</i>	<i>169</i>
5.	<i>Shanker Sundaram</i>	<i>150</i>
6.	<i>Nurul Muhaniza</i>	<i>147</i>
7.	<i>Vasudevan</i>	<i>140</i>
8.	<i>Dato' Suraj Singh</i>	<i>139</i>
9.	<i>Amara Binti Abu</i>	<i>114</i>
10.	<i>Richard Teh</i>	<i>109</i>
11.	Khairul Aiman	90
12.	Tan Peck Guat	62
	<i>Spoilt votes</i>	<i>1</i>

- 8.25 Hendon Mohamad congratulated the incoming committee.

ITEM 10 OF AGENDA: General

- 10.1 As there were no issues, the meeting ended at 6.00pm.



**ALVIN NEO
HONORARY SECRETARY
SELANGOR BAR COMMITTEE**