

The Selangor Bar have had recently attended a meeting with Pengarah Penjara Negeri Selangor, TKP Aminon bin Adnan at Bilik Mesyuarat Penjara Sungai Buloh.

The Selangor Bar had a discussion to address and resolve issues raised by both parties as per the following:

Issue 1	The criteria for inmates to be qualified for Pelepasan Banduan Secara Berlesen (PBSL).
Decision/Clarification	<p>Inmates who had been sentenced to imprisonment for three years and below are qualified to apply for PBSL. However, those who have been sentenced for offences under the Fourth Schedule of the Prison Act 1995, are not entitled to apply for PBSL.</p> <p>PBSL falls under the purview of Ketua Pengarah Penjara by virtue of Prison Act 1995. The prison department will submit the application for PBSL every month for inmates who are qualified for such programs. To qualify for PBSL the inmate's family must consent and provide proof of availability of employment for the inmate.</p> <p>Currently Selangor and Johor are the leading states which have released approximately 200 inmates under PBSL monthly.</p>
Issue 2	Job opportunities for inmates under PBSL.
Decision/Clarification	<p>Penjara Negeri Selangor seeking cooperation from the Selangor Bar to lend a hand in notifying its members if they are interested in offering job opportunities at their firm for inmates under PBSL.</p> <p>Employers who hire inmates under PBSL will enjoy extra benefits from SOCSO and LHDN in the form of reimbursement, and a Tax Rebate for every inmate hired under PBSL.</p> <p>Any interested members can contact the relevant prison or the relevant district parole office to get latest information regarding the inmates for PBSL.</p>

<p>Issue 3</p>	<p>No reply or follow up from the prison regarding the queries from lawyers on their client's health condition in the prison.</p>
<p>Decision/Clarification</p>	<p>The Selangor prison department receives letters from lawyers , with regards to the health of their clients. Upon receipt of the letters, the prison officer will enquire the inmate's condition and if the inmate is indeed not well, then they will immediately be brought to the prison clinic for medical care.</p> <p>Medical care at Private Hospital Some lawyers even requested to refer their clients to private hospitals for medical attention. The prison informed us that inmates will not be referred to private hospitals because the existing rules and regulations require that inmates be referred to government hospitals only.</p> <p>Inmates coming in with Medicines Any inmate who brings in medicines from outside the prison will have the prison officer send them to the prison's pharmacist for verification before they are given to the inmates.</p> <p>However, members are assured that all the inmates will be provided all the necessary medical attention and relevant medicines in the prison without delay.</p>
<p>Issue 4</p>	<p>Lawyers' complaint about their clients who succumb to fights in the prison.</p>
<p>Decision/Clarification</p>	<p>Despite all the measures taken to ensure the inmates are safe, the fight among them are unavoidable.</p> <p>When there is a fight among the inmates, the prison department will hold an inquiry and will transfer inmates concerned to different cells.</p> <p>However, if the situation gets worse, then the inmates will be transferred to another prison for the safety of the other inmates.</p>

Issue 5	There is no privacy when lawyers interview their clients in the prison because a prison officer will stand in the vicinity of the room where the interview is being conducted.
Decision/Clarification	For safety reasons, prison officers are stationed around the inmates during the interview session. However, members can be assured that the prison officers are ordered to be out of earshot when any lawyer conducts an interview with the inmates.
Issue 6	The Prison Department raised issue on false complaints made by lawyers about their clients' health condition.
Decision/Clarification	The Prison Department views such false complaints very seriously. There was an incident where the Prison Department had to lodge a complaint to the Bar Council.