



JAWATANKUASA PEGUAM PULAU PINANG (PENANG BAR COMMITTEE)

Your ref :

Our ref :

Date :

CL 7/10

05-03-2010

UPDATES ON COURT ISSUES

Georgetown Sessions Courts : Night Courts to hear 'Kes-Kes Jenayah Jalanan'

Further to our earlier Circulars CL 5/10 and CL 6/10, regarding the above directive from Court, the Committee recently met with Puan Rosilah Binti Yq to seek clarification and we were informed of the following:

1. Although the Night Courts officially started operations on 1st March 2010, they only operate on an 'on-call' basis and to date, the Courts have not had any night sittings.
2. The Night Courts will be available from 5.30 to 10.00pm, Mondays to Fridays.
3. Cases which are defined as 'jenayah jalanan' are those involving snatch thefts, robbery, road-bullying, assault, etc.
4. The arrested person has agreed to plead guilty and will be brought to Court so the Court will only decide on bail and/or sentencing.
5. The system is currently being carried out on a trial basis at the KL, Shah Alam and Penang Courts simultaneously.

The Committee raised several concerns to the above, namely the absence of legal representation, potential difficulties in obtaining bail money when financial institutions are closed as well as the potential for abuse by certain quarters.

We were told that the directives for the introduction of the Night Courts were issued by the Court's policy makers and higher authorities. In view of this, the Committee will be seeking for an urgent appointment to meet with YA Dato' Seri James Foong, the Managing Judge for further discussions and clarification on this matter.

Relocation of Subordinate Courts to Northam Tower

We were told that the tentative date for the move to Northam Tower is now scheduled for 1st April 2010. However, the Court will officially inform the Committee once there is confirmation of the same.

As always, we invite views and comments for members on the Night Court issue as well as any other problems which they are facing with the Courts in order for us to take the same up with the authorities.

Thank you.

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MURELI NAVARATNAM
CHAIRMAN