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To Members of the Malaysian Bar

Additional Measures under the PRIHATIN Stimulus Package and Definition of SMEs

We refer to the additional measures under the PRIHATIN stimulus package rolled out for the benefit of small and medium-sized enterprises (“SMEs”) announced by the Prime Minister, YAB Tan Sri Dato’ Haji Muhyiddin b Haji Mohd Yassin, today.

In the announcement, it appears that SMEs which are entitled for the subsidy of salary are those registered with the Companies Commission of Malaysia (Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia, “SSM”) or local authorities and registered with the Social Security Organisation (“SOCSO”) (Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial, “PERKESO”).

This is not the way in which SMEs have been defined by SME Corporation. SME Corporation includes in their definition of SMEs, businesses that are registered with the respective statutory body of professional service providers, which would include law firms.

The Bar Council is concerned that today’s announcement by the Prime Minister could cause confusion, and is in the midst of clarifying this matter with the relevant authorities. We will keep Members informed of the outcome.

Thank you

**A G Kalidas
Secretary
Malaysian Bar**