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**Circular No 105/2020
Dated 14 Apr 2020**

To Members of the Malaysian Bar and pupils in chambers

Update | Specific Industries Allowed to Operate During the Movement Control Order

We refer to [Circular No 099/2020](#) entitled “Specific Industries Allowed to Operate During the Movement Control Order” dated 11 Apr 2020. We wish to update Members in relation to the issue of whether legal firms will be allowed to operate while the Movement Control Order (“MCO”) is in place.

We have been contacted by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (“MITI”) for our views on this matter. We have informed them that it is our view that some leeway ought to be provided to legal firms to operate when the MCO is in place, provided the Ministry of Health deems it safe for lawyers to operate.

In our response to MITI, we have suggested that all law firms be entitled to apply to reopen, and that we disagree with any suggestion that approval be granted based on classification or type of work done by the legal firm. We have also informed MITI that in the event that a legal firm is allowed to resume operations, there should be restrictions on the number of days and hours that the firm is allowed to operate, on the number of staff that are allowed to be physically present at the legal firm, and that legal firms should comply with minimal practical health and safety requirements.

We had previously been informed that the media statement by MITI on 10 Apr 2020 lacks specifics and a clear definition of “legal services”. We were also informed that the Government was looking into the matter and would provide clarification and a standard operating procedure for the legal sector to Members of the Bar, upon discussion with the National Security Council (“NSC”).

We have written to both YB Dato’ Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Minister of MITI; and YB Dato’ Takiyuddin Hassan, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Parliament and Law); to seek clarification as to whether a policy decision has been made in this regard, but to date we have not received any response. We will continue to pursue this matter and update Members as soon as there is a decision.

We have been informed that some Members had tried to submit applications to MITI but were unable to do so as the MITI website was down. We would like to inform Members that we have provided MITI with the relevant information regarding legal firms that was requested of us. This includes the following fields of information: name of Member, Bar Council membership number, name of firm, and operating address. Hence, once a decision is made that law firms are allowed to apply to resume operations during the MCO period, the information that the Bar Council was asked to provide, is already with MITI.

Thank you.

**A G Kalidas
Secretary
Malaysian Bar**