Badan Peguam Malaysia
Malaysian Bar

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Circular No 122/2026
Dated 10 Apr 2026

To Members of the Malaysian Bar and Pupils in Chambers

Forum on
Separating the Powers of the Attorney General and Public Prosecutor: Does the Bill Deliver Independence, Accountability and the Rule of Law?

The Malaysian Bar is organising a forum to critically examine the Constitution (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2026 ("Bill"), which proposes the separation of powers of the Attorney General ("AG") and the Public Prosecutor ("PP"), a significant constitutional and institutional reform in the Malaysian legal system. The forum will assess whether the Bill, in its current form, meaningfully delivers prosecutorial independence, accountability and the rule of law, and will propose amendments that are necessary to ensure this reform is effective.

This forum aims to foster informed and open public dialogue on the proposed separation of powers of the AG and the PP, the structural gaps identified in the Bill and the path forward for amendments that will establish a truly independent prosecutorial institution. This forum will provide a platform for legal practitioners, civil society, academics and members of the public to critically engage with the Bill's provisions on the appointment and removal of the PP, accountability mechanisms to Parliament, and the role of the AG post-separation.

Participants will be encouraged to reflect on the core elements of prosecutorial independence and its impact on every Malaysian. The discussion will explore ways to strengthen the reform, ensuring that prosecutorial decisions are made without fear or favour, remain insulated from Executive influence, and serve in the public interest.

The objectives of the forum are to:

(1) enhance public understanding of the Bill and its implications for prosecutorial independence and the rule of law in Malaysia;
(2) identify the structural gaps and propose amendments to the Bill to ensure prosecutorial independence, accountability and transparency in the appointment, removal and oversight of the PP; and
(3) raise public awareness of the importance of this reform and the need for meaningful public participation in the deliberative process before the Bill is retabled in Parliament.

Details of the forum are as follows:

Date: **20 Apr 2026 (Monday)**
Time: **2:00 pm to 5:30 pm**
Mode: **Hybrid**
(Zoom and Raja Aziz Addruse Auditorium, Level 2, Wisma Badan Peguam Malaysia (for physical participants))
CPD Code: T3/20042026/BC/BC264173/2
CPD Points: 2

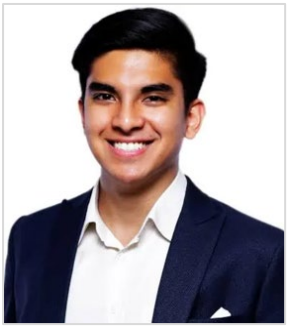
Registration Fee: Free of charge

Click here to register.

Programme

Time	Description
2:00 pm	**Registration**
2:30 pm	**Opening Remarks**
2:40 pm	**Panel Session** (1) **Syed Saddiq b Syed Abdul Rahman**, *Member of Parliament, Muar; Member of Parliamentary Special Select Committee concerning the Separation of Roles of the Attorney General and the Public Prosecutor* (2) **Melissa Akhir**, *Commissioner, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysia, "SUHAKAM")* (3) **Maha Balakrishnan**, *Independent Policy Strategy Consultant; Research Fellow, United Nations ("UN") Sustainable Development Solutions Network-Asia Headquarters, Sunway University, Malaysia* (4) **Ngeow Chow Ying**, *Convener, Projek SAMA* (5) **Karen Cheah Yee Lynn**, *President, Malaysian Bar (2022–2024)* Moderator: **Anishaa Sundramoorthy**, *Co-Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council Civil Law and Law Reform Committee; Chairperson, Bar Council National Young Lawyers and Pupils Committee*
3:40 pm	**Break**
3:50 pm	**Panel Session (*continued*)**
5:20pm	**Question-and-Answer Session**
5:30 pm	**End**

Speakers



Syed Saddiq b Syed Abdul Rahman is the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Muar, Johor and a prominent advocate for youth and vulnerable communities in Malaysia. He gained national prominence as one of the seven co-founders of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia ("BERSATU") and served as the Minister of Youth and Sports from 2018 to 2020.

During his ministerial tenure, he successfully spearheaded the "Undi18" constitutional amendment, which lowered the voting and candidacy age to 18. In 2020, he founded the Malaysian United Democratic Alliance ("MUDA"). Beyond his party leadership, Syed Saddiq is deeply involved in legislative reform and public policy. He is a member of the Parliamentary Special Select Committee ("PSSC") focusing on the institutional separation of the roles of the AG and the PP. His professional background includes experience as an international debate coach in over 25 countries, a columnist for various national news portals, and a researcher for the Bait Al-Amanah think tank. He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the International Islamic University Malaysia and completed a Senior Fellowship at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore.



Melissa Akhir is an access-to-justice consultant and human rights activist with 19 years of experience, specialising in child protection and prevention of gender-based violence. Her work is grounded in evidence-based advocacy focusing on the intersections between gender and children's rights. She has been actively involved in reforming Malaysia's criminal laws to be more child-survivor-centric and has designed multisectoral, life-cycle approaches to strengthen child protection systems across Southeast Asia.

Melissa's professional expertise covers human rights advocacy, safeguarding, legal feminist praxis, child protection, intergenerational movement-building and implementation of child participation, including work with migrant, refugee and stateless children. She has led numerous legal and policy reform efforts, facilitated high-level regional convenings, and conducted training for judges, parliamentarians, government agencies, civil society organisations and youth groups. Her recent engagements include providing input to Malaysia's CRC (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child) review, legal reform on child witness laws, and sports safeguarding initiatives. She holds an Advanced Master's Degree in International Children's Rights from Leiden University, the Netherlands, and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia.



Maha Balakrishnan is a researcher, trainer and adviser on democratic governance, rights-based policymaking and strategic advocacy in Malaysia.

Following a 12-year career at the Malaysian Bar, Maha now combines the disciplines of law and political science to provide technical training and advice to a range of institutions and organisations, including the Malaysian Parliament and its members, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) Malaysia, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and non-governmental organisations. Maha has published works on parliamentary practice, democratic governance, political participation and rights-based policy reforms. Maha is also a Research Fellow at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network-Asia Headquarters in Sunway University, Malaysia.



Ngeow Chow Ying is the Convener of Projek SAMA. She is a practising lawyer who started her activism in the abolition of the death penalty movement in Malaysia and across the region. Along the way, she became more involved in various issues, such as electoral and institutional reforms and was elected to serve as the Treasurer of BERSIH (The Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections) from 2018 to 2023. In Projek SAMA, Chow Ying leads a number of research and advocacy projects, including in the areas of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law.



Karen Cheah Yee Lynn is the past President of the Malaysian Bar, serving in that capacity from March 2022 to March 2024. She was the Chairman of the Malacca State Bar Committee from 2012 to 2015, and a Bar Council member from 2012 till 2025.

She was appointed as the Treasurer of the Malaysian Bar for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 terms and subsequently served as Secretary of the Malaysian Bar for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 terms. In her tenure with the Bar Council, she has held positions as Chairperson of the Legal Profession Committee, Corporate and Commercial Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on Conditional Fee Rules (Re Non Personal Injuries); Co-Chairperson of the Committee on Reform to the Legal Sector, Constitutional Law Committee, International Professional Services Committee; and Chairperson of the LAWASIA Conference 2024 Organising Committee.

She is the current Chairperson of the Bar Council Committee on AMLA and the Co-Chairperson of the Bar Council International Policy and Practice Committee.

Moderator



Anishaa Sundramoorthy is an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya. She practises general litigation with a focus on civil and commercial disputes. She has appeared in trials and hearings at all levels of the Malaysian Courts and maintains a diverse portfolio of public interest files.

She is also a qualified mediator with the International Mediation Institute. Anishaa serves as the Chairperson of the Bar Council National Young Lawyers and Pupils Committee and Co-Deputy Chairperson of the Bar Council Civil Law and Law Reform Committee.

For enquiries, please contact:

- Noor Izzati Mohd Anuar (izzati@malaysianbar.org.my);
- Tanishadevi Thanaseelan (tanishadevi@malaysianbar.org.my); or
- Najwa Hamid (najwa@malaysianbar.org.my).

Terms and Conditions

Event Policy

Advance registration is required. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Registration for the event will close on **20 Apr 2026 (Monday)**, at **11:00 am**.

The organiser reserves the right to modify, cancel or postpone the event, should circumstances arise that make such action necessary.

Cancellation

Cancellations must be made in writing.

Substitutions are allowed. Kindly inform us in writing with the relevant details at least **three** days in advance.

If you have failed to inform the organiser of your cancellation for three consecutive times, you may be blacklisted for future events.

Transferral

You are allowed to transfer your place to another participant, but you must notify the organiser with the necessary details at least three days in advance.

Attendance

CPD points for CPD Scheme will not be awarded to lawyers and pupils in chambers from Peninsular Malaysia who arrive more than 15 minutes late, are not present throughout the event, or leave before its scheduled end.

Privacy

The personal information that you provide to the Malaysian Bar, whether now or in the future, may be used, recorded, stored, disclosed or otherwise processed by or on behalf of the Malaysian Bar for the purposes of facilitation and organisation of this event, research and audit, maintenance of a participant database for the promotion of this event, and such ancillary services as may be relevant.

Disclaimer

- Materials (if any) will be emailed only. No printed notes will be provided.
- No recording of the event is permitted via any means at any time.
- No part of the event content may be used / reproduced in any form without the written and explicit consent of the Bar Council and speaker(s).

Organised by:
Malaysian Bar

Issued by: Anand Raj, President, Malaysian Bar