

Cap to keep **high standards** in legal profession

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PETALING JAYA: Putting a cap on the number of tries for a Certificate in Legal Practice (CLP) is a way to maintain the high standards expected of the legal profession.

Legal experts see it as a way to separate the good lawyers from the bad ones.

The Legal Profession Qualifying Board (LPQB) announced recently that a candidate is allowed only four attempts at getting a CLP to qualify as a legal practitioner.

Michelle Ling Shyan Mih of Gerakan Guaman Rakyat (a movement of lawyers, legal executives and legal activists who provide pro bono legal services to vulnerable communities) does not think there is a lot of difference even if the four-attempt cap is implemented.

"In any case, only 20% to 30% of CLP candidates get through the examination each year," she told *theSun*. This year, 25% passed the examination.

Limiting CLP attempts to four a way to separate wheat from chaff

Ling said the low passing rate reflected the high standard needed to make the cut. "This may be a way to limit the number of new lawyers going into private practice each year," she said.

Ling said those who have exhausted all four attempts would have to abandon any hope of becoming a lawyer or go back to school to pursue a new degree.

"They can choose to do a Bar Professional Training Course in the United Kingdom or enrol in a public university that does not require students to sit for the CLP," she said.

Instead of sitting for the CLP, law graduates from public universities undergo nine months of chambering at a law firm before they are called to the Bar.

A list of local universities where students are exempted from sitting for the CLP examination can be

found on the LPQB website.

Enlight Malaysia legal director Yong Ke-Qin believes the limits are to filter out those who do not have the potential to continue in a career in legal practice. "This will ensure future legal practitioners meet the same high standards as current ones," he told *theSun*.

Enlight Malaysia is an NGO that operates as a think tank and provides holistic training modules in the fields of law, engineering sciences, and economics.

Yong also raised what he described as a "loophole" in the rule that the LPQB should look into.

According to the rule, a candidate who is unable to make it for all papers must promptly notify the director of LPQB in writing, with sufficient justification.

"However, it is silent on a situation where the candidate is not

available for only one paper. This lack of clarity is detrimental to candidates," he added.

Some law students have described it as an "unwise move" while others say it would be unfair to those who have to miss just one paper due to unforeseen circumstances.

As an example, CLP candidate who gave her name as Sidhu cited the case of a student who was not allowed to take leave to attend to a family crisis. "If the student had missed the paper anyway, he would have had to re-sit all five papers at his next try," Sidhu told *theSun*.

Another CLP candidate, M. Jay Raj, pointed out that in a CLP examination, a student's knowledge of the law is tested, but not his capabilities as a future advocate.

He said instead of limiting the number of attempts, it would be more sensible to have the candidates tested on a combination of their theoretical knowledge and their capabilities in practical situations.

"That would be a better way to screen out incompetent lawyers."

Federal govt to help rebuild Kampung Baru Karak

BENTONG: The federal government will help rebuild the settlement in Kampung Baru Karak here, which was destroyed in a fire on Oct 1, said National Unity Minister Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique.

She said the redevelopment plan would be discussed with the state government and would also take into account the views of the locals there and the Kampung Baru Karak redevelopment committee, which was set up by former Bentong member of Parliament Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai to ease the burden of the victims involved.

"We had been informed that the committee had made preliminary plans on the redevelopment by seeking the views of various parties, including engineers, architects and surveyors, as well as residents' representatives.

"We will discuss the development proposal before bringing it up to the Cabinet," she told a press conference after visiting the fire victims here yesterday.

During the visit, Halimah handed over contribution of RM189,000 from her ministry to the fire victims.

The fire, which occurred about 9pm, destroyed 51 houses and nine shop units. However, no fatalities or injuries were reported in the incident.

In a related development, she said the ministry would look into the safety aspects of all new villages in the country to prevent a similar incident.

It is learnt that there are 613 new villages in the country, with more than 400 villages set up during the Emergency. - Bernama

Barometer for GE15

Malacca Umno chief Datuk Seri Ab Rauf Yusoh has even offered his DAP counterpart Low Chee Leong, who is Kota Laksamana assemblyman, a seat in the state exco, upsetting a longstanding "No Anwar, No DAP" stance.

However, the top leaders in Umno have distanced themselves from Rauf's move to protect themselves against any fallout if the strategy fails to work.

Universiti Malaya political analyst Dr Awang Azman Awang Pawi sees the Malacca polls as a test for all contesting parties in their preparations for the 15th general election. Contrary to Azmi's assessment, he does not see any party leading in the race for votes yet. "It's not going to be easy, even for Umno."

Awang Azman believes the crunch will only come in the last four or five days before polling.

Nonetheless, he said Umno has the edge because of its access to federal resources, given that it now holds the reins of power in Putrajaya.

On the other hand, he said Bersatu is in a "precarious position".

"It will have to seek an ally, but PH will not mend fences with them, while Umno has stated it is standing alone," he added.

From front page



CAN'T WAIT TO FLY ... The KL International Airport is bustling again as flights are allowed to resume following the lifting of the interstate travel ban for fully vaccinated people effective Oct 11. - **BERNAMAPIX**

PM explains equity safety net framework

KUALA LUMPUR: The proposal to introduce an equity safety net framework in the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) will not take away the rights and interests of other races, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said private companies were not subject to this proposal but were subject to the existing rules and regulations of the relevant sectors.

"This is to ensure that the sale of shares and companies by local companies to foreign owners will be controlled and in turn can ensure that bumiputra equity ownership is not eroded," he said when tabling the 12MP at Dewan Negara yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said the framework would be introduced to ensure that the sale of shares or companies by bumiputra-mandated agencies would only be offered to qualified bumiputra consortiums, companies or individuals.

He said among the bumiputra-mandated agencies involved were Permodalan Nasional Bhd which contributed the largest percentage to bumiputra equity ownership, as well as Majlis Amanah Rakyat and Ekuiti Nasional Bhd.

Ismail Sabri gave an assurance the government would continue empowering the bumiputra, while also paying attention to the low-income Malaysian families, underprivileged and vulnerable groups regardless of race.

"The government's intention is to achieve fairer, equitable and inclusive socio-economic development in line with the spirit of Keluarga Malaysia (Malaysian Family)." - Bernama

Ismail Sabri tables 12MP at Dewan Negara

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will focus its expenditure mostly on protecting lives and livelihood in the next two years as the country continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from that, attention will also be given to efforts to fulfil its commitment on existing projects.

This has been made necessary by the nation's limited financial situation, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said when tabling the 12th Malaysia Plan

(12MP) for debate at the Dewan Negara.

The 12MP, which was tabled for debate at the Dewan Rakyat on Sept 27, was given the nod by the lower house of Parliament last Thursday. A total of 106 lawmakers spoke during the debate on the plan.

At the Dewan Negara yesterday, Ismail Sabri said the government was also finalising the Policy Implementation Plan (PPD) under the coordination of the Economic Planning Unit to ensure targets under

the 12MP are achieved.

He said the PPD, which is expected to be completed next month, would align the strategies and initiatives with key performance indicators (KPI) and the responsible ministries as well as the coordinating and implementing agencies.

"A monitoring committee will be set up and chaired by myself to closely monitor the implementation of the 12MP. I will chair the first meeting of the monitoring committee in mid-November.

"I also welcome feedback from all senators on the proposed implementation of the 12MP policies and strategies," he said.

He also gave an assurance that all strategies and initiatives under the 12MP will be implemented responsibly and with integrity.

Ismail Sabri described the 12MP as a comprehensive development plan to ensure sustainable economic growth with a more equitable distribution of opportunities and outcomes. - Bernama