

A NEW BEGINNING

Greetings and welcome to the inaugural edition of the relaunched *INSAF*!

I am most pleased to be a part of this illustrious publication and honoured to be relaunching it in its current digital form, and in collaboration with one of Malaysia's top universities and its renowned academics — the International Islamic University Malaysia (“IIUM”). Collaborative work with academia means harnessing diverse opinions and thoughts on legal issues, contemporary issues relating to the law, and others, besides those from the legal community.

INSAF had its beginnings 54 years ago. It was birthed during the presidency of R R Chelliah, the longest-serving Chairman of the Bar Council (1964–1973). His tenure as President is known to have seen through many “firsts”, one of which was the inception of this journal, first published in January 1967. There were only 540 Members of the Malaysian Bar in 1966, therefore a complimentary copy of the journal was sent to every Member of the Bar back then. Throughout the years of *INSAF*'s existence, it was helmed by a team of very capable and senior Members of the Bar who formed the *INSAF* Publication Committee, such as Chooi Mun Sou, James Puthuchery, Raja Aziz Addruse, Mahadev Shankar, and Cecil Rajendra, among others. It was a quarterly publication to primarily acquaint Members of the Malaysian Bar with the views and rulings of the Bar Council to, among others, regulate Members of the Malaysian Bar and to scrutinise proposed legislation with the expertise expected of a body dedicated to the promotion of justice and effective laws.

The new Editorial Board, broadened vision and collaboration, resume now to ignite the flames of interest that set the former Committee going. The Editorial Board is not being too bold, optimistic or radical in its firm belief that it is within the power of the legal profession to gradually support moulding statutes and effect adjustments in the law, especially in matters which involve questions of fundamental liberties.

The question perhaps on everyone’s mind is the name of the journal. Why “insaf”, which generally means “repentance”? In 1968, the then-Editorial Committee expounded on the selection of the name: “its objective was set towards true justice for all: true justice to the public, to the country and to ourselves”. *INSAF* also aimed to inject into the lethargic condition of Members a stimulus to shake off the dust of long years of inactivity.

INSAF has always been a democratic and open platform for lawyers in Malaysia to voice out their opinions on legal-related developments in the country, and this collaboration with IIUM aims to do the same — to create and encourage high-quality and original research writings on law and its current developments.

As you can see, the materials in *INSAF* comprise of articles and academic papers. We further aim to publish a greater variety of contents, such as case notes, book reviews, and legislation reports / commentaries. But no matter what issues featured within these pages might take up, the goal to be achieved is that of “insaf” — towards true justice for all. And so, I personally invite Members of the Malaysian Bar to contribute a greater diversity of materials for the upcoming editions of *INSAF*.

I end by thanking IIUM, in particular Prof Dr Sharifah Zubaidah Syed Abdul Kader and her team: Asst. Prof Dr Areej Torla, Asst. Prof Dr Sodiq Omoola and Mohd Ziaolhaq Qazi Zada; my Bar Council colleagues, Nitin Kumar Gordhan, Mohamad Ezri Abdul Wahab and Lee Guan Tong, as well as the Bar Council Secretariat.

Enjoy reading!

SURINDAR