

Candidates Watch Campaign – Replies
P. Suppiah

Question 1

In not more than 80 words, please provide a brief introduction about yourself and how you perceive yourself as a legal practitioner.

In the write up by the Proposer he has set out certain facts about me which I wish to adopt and like to add by way of answers to your "List of questions" the following (*Candidate Watch Team – as set out in Q2-Q7*)

Question 2

Which committee would you seek to chair and what are your aspirations and intentions for the said committee during your tenure? If you do not intend to chair a committee, please state your reasons for the same and tell us what do you intend to achieve during your tenure as a Council Member?

I would like to sit on the Criminal Law Committee which is an important Committee as its work involves in the protection of the liberty of a person as provided for under the constitution and other laws relating to crimes.

Question 3

The issue of setting a term limit for members serving the Bar Council has attracted many supporters as well as detractors. Do you think that there should be a term limit for members to be in the Bar Council? Please provide reasons for your answer.

I am open minded on this issue as what we need on the Council are persons who can actively contribute towards its objects.

Question 4

Based on feedback received, many Young Lawyers are leaving the profession because of perceived deteriorating working conditions at the Bar. What are your views about the working conditions that Young Lawyers are being subjected to and how would you seek to improve these conditions?

I feel the working conditions at the Bar will depend on individual practitioners. The Bar is never over-crowded as there is always room for persons who work hard.

Question 5

The Johor Bar and the Penang Bar have recently held EGMs, *inter alia*, to obtain feedback in relation to the Fast Track System implemented by the judiciary which places emphasis on a Key Performance Index (“KPI”). Has the quality of justice dispensed by the Courts suffered as a result of the KPI that has been put into place? What would you do to improve the situation?

The KPI system, I support provided it is not shoved down the throat without any due regard for the justice of the case. There will always be complaints generally from the losing side. Under this system at least the files are not missing which was the norm for reasons any senior practitioner will know.

Question 6

Do you think the Solicitor’s Remuneration Order (SRO) has achieved the objectives it was put in place for? Do you think more should be done by the Bar Council to ensure adherence to the SRO or alternatively, should the SRO be done away with all together?

I think the SRO should be done away with as there are more breaches than observance on this issue. Bar Council should take action to do away with it.

Question 7

What are your views on the failure of the Attorney-General to bring charges against the individuals named by the Royal Commission of Inquiry in their findings on the leaked video-clips *vis a vis* judicial appointments? What action do you propose the Bar Council take?

Without knowing what facts the Attorney General has, it is difficult to say whether there is any failure on his part. Maybe there should be an independent body created to have another look at the files (or "closed files") to determine whether there is sufficient evidence for prosecution. Quite a lot of prosecutions to my mind could have gone awry due to inefficient or incomplete investigations. For this there must be fully and properly trained investigation officers with full knowledge of modern methods of investigation.