

MAURITIUS BAR ASSOCIATION



Memo to be delivered for legal assistance for enquiries at police station **Clarification**

Dear Members,

Further to an incident which occurred whilst counsel were assisting a client in an enquiry yesterday 16 April 2020, we wish to highlight certain matters regarding the Memo which is to be delivered to enable barristers to assist their clients in the giving of statement, without having to go through the Work Access Permit procedure issued for 'Essential Services'.

We have received numerous queries regarding the police station from which this Memo must be obtained.

Although the Bar Council had requested for the Memo to be obtained *from counsel's local police station*, the office of the CP had agreed to the following procedure, which was communicated to you on 09 April 2020 via COVID-19 Communiqué #16:

Barristers need to seek a Memo **from the CONCERNED IN-CHARGE Police Stations/Units**, which will be issued upon confirmation:

- (a) of the necessity to record such statement during the confinement period and
- (b) that the services of the barrister have been retained.

These requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Memo only enables travel to the concerned police station/unit and back.

Since we have received complaints that certain police stations contacted were not aware of this procedure, the email of the CP will be communicated to you in the next Communiqué.

You were also requested to supply the following information when applying for the Memo:

- a. Your NIC;
- b. Your Barrister Card (*the office of the CP has been informed that the date of expiry on your card is for administrative purposes and should not be a bar to obtention of the Memo during the confinement period*);
- c. The OB number, if available;
- d. Your home address;
- e. The date of your expected travel.

As advised before, we hope that you will make use of this facility only when absolutely necessary and will adhere to the confinement/curfew orders by staying at home, as far as possible.

Varuna R Bunwaree Goburdhun
Secretary of the Bar Council
17 April 2020