

MAURITIUS BAR ASSOCIATION



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7th April 2021

Communique: WAP for Barristers and their employees

Dear Friends,

- (i) Barristers in private practice are receiving mails from different courts to suggest dates for cases to be fixed anew. They will, obviously, need to have access to the relevant files to do the needful.
- (ii) Barristers in private practice need to work to earn a living and the situation as it stands is depriving them of that possibility. It is a paradox that commercial centers are allowed to operate but Barristers not allowed to attend their office.
- (iii) Barristers are only allowed to attend court, police station or place of detention. The services of a Barrister are normally retained at his/her office.

Taking the above into consideration, the Bar Council has made representations to the Honourable Chief Justice, the Honourable Attorney General and the Commissioner of Police to allow Barristers to have access to their office with the Barrister's Card and for their employees to be issued with the Work Access Permit.

Given the fact that the current situation in relation to Covid-19 is likely to last, the Bar Council has also informed the authorities that it is agreeable to staggered hearing of cases provided all sanitary protocols are observed.

Members of the Bar will surely appreciate that the Bar Council is not the policy maker in this particular matter. It has made several representations to the relevant authorities and is hopeful that a decision will be taken soon in the benefit of the profession and for the proper administration of justice.

Yours faithfully,

Mayuri D. Bunwaree-Ramlackhan
Secretary of the Bar Council