

We are thankful that the 12th general election was conducted in a smooth and transparent manner in accordance with the democratic practice of the country of which I had the blessed opportunity to witness this process as polling and counting agent working together with the Election Commission officers. It came as a very pleasant surprise to many of us in the Pest control industry and is indeed a heart warming assurance that the inevitable winds of change were felt by the nation as a whole.

We are proud that as an Association, we, invariably had also contributed though small but yet significant public awareness directing them to the questionable governance of local councils especially MPSJ. The court declaration that we commenced against MPSJ although met with token objections from some members, had now through the voters, vindicated PCAM's unprecedented move and justified our actions of challenging them in court. This is a historic event whereby not many if not none in the past decade, had an association dared to challenge the government face on. Despite the repeated warnings by many businessmen that there are powerful men in Selangor behind and backing this rulings, we were undeterred and undaunted as can be read from the many related articles in many major local newspapers. On the contrary, through the media highlights since May 2006 about our plights and struggles, the discerning publics were compelled to ponder on the previous state Government's policies of equality and inconsistency within our Federal Constitution. The verdict? **The people should not be afraid of the Government but rather the Government should be afraid of the people.** Yes, our commitment remains steadfast and we should by all means submit and cooperate with federal, state and local authorities but only within the law and not submit blindly to them outside the context of the law.

Many people had commended PCAM including the Bar Council of Malaysia for our solid stand against injustice and which smacks of political hegemony at the expense of the public. The past 2 years were indeed a testing time and a traumatic struggle for me and my supporters in this class action against MPSJ as we braced ourselves for the impending backlash and victimization which fortunately, we are grateful now that it did not materialize or occur. We had taken that giant leap of faith into the unknown with our belief reinforced by the words of the former President of America, Franklin Roosevelt **"The Only Thing we have to fear is Fear Itself"**.

As the writer, Terence Fernandez rightly wrote in the Sun on 9 March 08, that one of the major causes of the peoples' disappointment and frustrations were due to the lack of accountability and transparency at these local levels. It is with heartfelt thanks to many of our members who had supported our cause against the lopsided rulings by MPSJ and today, through our perseverance and united stand, we see a new dawn, a new beginning and a new era which PCAM can be assured that though a small voice we can make a difference but only if we have the courage to speak up fearlessly and take the lead against injustice. An invaluable lesson we learn is that we should not be indifferent or expect others to solve our issues especially when it is within our prerogative to do so. Neither shall we assume and exclaim that I am not affected by it. We are members of PCAM, and it is my fervent conviction whereby even if it's only one member suffering, eventually others will suffer too, just as when one finger is injured, will it not affect the whole body? Should not the head and other parts of the body feel the pain too?

The message is clear to the Exco as well; whom the members have placed their trust in us, to be committed and selfless. The demands from within and without our industry command the Exco to be on our toes at all times to serve diligently and sacrificially. For Exco members who fails to deliver or ineffective, our advice is to graciously "berundur" and make way for others lest the Exco be voted out by members' power or makkal Sathil

We are confident to say that all members share with us the same sentiments and that the results of the General Elections was a victory for PCAM and for the Rakyat, and we shall continue our calling to be the watchdog and voice of our industry and eventually, a prominent and respected Association in the eyes of the public and the new state authorities.

Let's move forward without fear or favor to protect our interests for the growth of our industry. Again to those who had supported this action, my heartfelt gratitude to you all. May God bless you.

At your service. **Thank you.**