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THE SUPREME COURT OF THE FEDERATION OF MALAYA.

REGISTRAR'S CIRCULAR NO: 9<sup>th</sup>/50.

PROBATION OFFICERS.

It is hoped that twelve trained Probation Officers will be available on July the 8th to be attached to the various Juvenile Courts throughout the Federation. Up to now there have only been two (attached to the Kuala Lumpur and Kelantan Courts).

2. Whilst this number will not adequately meet all the needs of Courts they should be of considerable service in the working of the Juvenile Courts Ordinance. As far as possible they will be posted according to Race where they are most likely to be of value, having regard to the race-ratios of juvenile offenders as disclosed by Returns since the Juvenile Courts commenced to function.

3. AS the Probation Service is entirely new in the Federation it is hoped that every facility and help will be given to the newly-trained recruits in carrying out their duty. The Chief Justice accompanied by the Registrar recently visited the Probation Officers' Hostel at Malacca, and were most favourably impressed both by the personnel who have been selected for this work, and by the thoroughness of the training (including the passing of a written examination with papers on the Juvenile Courts Ordinance 1947, the Children and Young Persons Ordinance 1947 and the Law of Evidence as well as one on the principles of the Probation System) which these Officers have had.

4. A Probation Officer is an officer of the Court and as far as his Probation work is concerned is under the direction of the President. The services of Probation Officers will be available for adult as well as for youthful offenders, and it is hoped that Presidents and Magistrates will avail themselves freely of their assistance in suitable cases when dealing with adult offenders.

5. The Principal Probation Officer for the Federation of Malaya will be visiting all the Juvenile Courts within the next few months and will be available for any advice and guidance either in probation work or Juvenile Court Procedure.

6. I have been asked to state that it is still pointless to make any order in respect of girls for detention in Approved Schools, as there are not yet in existence any Approved Schools for girls.

7. It is requested that Presidents of Sessions Courts exercising functions in Juvenile Courts should ensure that Orders of Detention made under the Juvenile Courts Ordinance should be prepared with the same care as Orders of Committal to Prison. In particular it is suggested that when Orders are made under Section 28 the wording should follow the

wording of the Section i.e. "For a period of three years or until he attains the age of 14 years whichever is the longer" etc. Difficulty has arisen in cases where, for instance, the order states a child should be detained until he reaches the age of 14, the Court being under the impression that he is at the time of the trial ten years of age, whereas it is subsequently found that he is already 12 on the date in question.

8. In all cases the original Order of Detention (not copies) should be forwarded to the Superintendent of the Approved or Advanced Approved School.

REGISTRAR.

Federal Registry,  
Supreme Court, F. of M.,  
Kuala Lumpur, 28th June, 1950.  
( RSC.38/48)

DISTRIBUTION: All Presidents, Sessions Courts.