

PAM/SC/17/20-1

8th July 2020

Dear PAM Colleagues,

Post MCO, these are difficult times for all of us as we restart our lives and work in the New Normal. Today, on behalf of our PAM Research Committee that has been set up for the first time in PAM, I personally appeal to all of you practicing Architects to take 10 minutes to fill up the survey on the Impact of MCO and the pandemic on our Architect firms in Malaysia.

Since the first meeting with the Economic Action Council on 30 March during the MCO on how to restart work and rebound the economy post Covid, as PAM President, I have openly called for the settlement of outstanding fees due to Architects on work completed and billed before 18 March 2020 from both Government and private sector.

I am glad to report from the start that the Government, including the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Senior Minister of Economic Affairs (PMO), has taken note of the hardship that delayed payment has imposed on our Architect firms especially SMEs. The Economic Action Council has asked for estimate on the quantum of fees owed and unpaid to enable them to take action.

This is the why we are issuing today a second survey so that our Research committee, headed by Ar (Dr) Zulhemlee and Ar Azim Aziz, can gather supporting statistics on the fees owed and to be paid to our architects to help ease cash flow in this challenging period. This will enable PAM to follow-up with MOF in a forthcoming meeting to urge our Government to act on the settlement of these fees.

The latest PENJANA announced that "GLCs and large corporates" have been urged by the Government to *"accelerate their vendors' payment terms"*. (Initiative No. 21 out of 40 key initiatives set out by MOF for June-Dec 2020)

Information on the amounts owed by Private sector developers is also important as PAM has submitted to the EAC and MITI to appeal to the government to waive or reduce service tax on payments received within 6 months of the end of CMCO. PAM needs urgently to press further on this matter as the Government finalizes Budget 2021.

Please return the survey soonest possible so that PAM can present an accurate report on the fees owed and payment to be made to our Architect firms. Survey achieves 99% accuracy if we can get 500 architect firms to respond. Do help PAM to assist all our Architects as we navigate the challenges ahead in the difficult months ahead.

Thank you and regards,



Ar Lillian Tay
PAM President