



**Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**

## **ARCHITECTS LAUD REFORMS BY MINISTER**

The Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) is fully supportive of reforms initiated by the Minister of Local Government Development (KPKT). Speaking on the occasion of the PAM 100 Years Annual Dinner and Awards on Saturday, 27 May 2023, Minister YB Nga Kor Ming announced major reforms by his Ministry that would bring substantial benefits to the built environment and the construction industry at large.

The Ministry of Local Government Development has been at the forefront of improving the well-being of the people through improvements to many of its policies. Within its ambit, the Ministry has launched initiatives to improve public parks, increase the safety of our cities and townships, cleaner toilets, liveable affordable homes, and improving efficiency within local governments.

### **Promoting design excellence and green buildings**

In his congratulatory remarks on the occasion of PAM's 100th Anniversary, YB Nga remarked *"As we celebrate this milestone, it is important to recognize the contributions of our Architects who have made Malaysia a hub for architectural excellence in the region. Their work has not only transformed our cities but has also put Malaysia on the world map as a centre for architectural innovation. Under the present government, some local councils have begun collaborating with PAM. This is a commendable move in promoting sustainable, green, and modern designs. I hope PAM will continue to collaborate with our local governments and inspire communities to choose a clean, healthy, and sustainable lifestyle."*

At the dinner, the winners of the PAM Awards 2023 were announced. A total of 26 projects across 15 categories were presented awards by YB Nga Kor Ming.

Newly elected PAM President, Ar. Abu Zarim Abu Bakar expressed his appreciation for the Minister's support, *"Architects were most encouraged by the Minister's commitment towards supporting better design outcomes through architecture design competitions for public facilities under the ministry's ambit. We welcome the Minister's commitment to encouraging sustainable development through the rating of public housing and other facilities using the Green Building Index (GBI). YB Nga highlighted the need for sustainable, green, and modern designs that promote a clean, healthy, and sustainable lifestyle. Many of the projects awarded this year are prime examples of the high quality of work our architects are capable of."*

### **Architects told not to undercut each other on fees**

In his speech, the Minister reminded architects to *"uphold the highest standards of professionalism that reflect the responsibilities entrusted to them. There is a minimum scale of fees for performing your services, you must be fair to each other and avoid undercutting each other on fees."*

PAM Vice President, Ar. Dexter Koh commented, *“It is a timely reminder by the minister for architects to not resort to undercutting each other to obtain work. After the difficult years of the pandemic, we find that everything has increased in price. We must all act with integrity; ultimately our duty of care is to the public. The fees we receive should commensurate with our responsibilities and to properly remunerate our staff in order to provide a consistent level of service to all our clients.”*

### **Efficiency leads to greater affordability for housing**

PAM Past President and International Union of Architects (UIA) Secretary General, Datuk Ar. Tan Pei Ing welcomed the Minister’s remarks at the dinner, *“We fully support the Minister’s vision for local governments to prioritise doing away with unnecessary procedures, without compromising on their quality of service. We are grateful that the Minister is addressing issues we have been highlighting for years. Enhancing the framework for self-regulation by the building professionals is exactly what we have been pushing for. Improving efficiency in approvals reduces compliance costs by the developers and eventually makes housing more affordable for the public. We will definitely support and work with the Minister on this mission.”*

### **Prioritise local talents**

Tan Sri Ar. Esa Mohammad, a PAM Past President and former President of the International Union of Architects (UIA) praised the initiatives of the Minister, *“I am impressed with the Minister who is very savvy with deep insights into the profession. We hope that with close cooperation between the ministry and PAM, we may see improvements in the building industry whilst adopting best practices to safeguard the environment as well. The minister’s commitment to promoting good design, green technology and engaging local architects with proven talents in undertaking public works is most encouraging.”*

Enclosed the PAM Awards & Annual Dinner 2023 Photos

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eBZ2e8X-weTjZimbP2WQXqQ-hbw--QO2?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eBZ2e8X-weTjZimbP2WQXqQ-hbw--QO2?usp=share_link)

Prepared by the Media & Publications Committee, Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)

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## **About Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)**

Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) — Malaysian Institute of Architects — is the national professional institute representing architects in Malaysia. PAM's mission statement is "To promote the advancement of architecture and the architectural profession for the betterment of society".

Founded in 1923 as the Institute of Architects Malaya, its name was changed in 1948 to the Federation of Malaya Society of Architects (FMSA), then allied to the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Another change to its current name to reflect national sovereignty came about on 20th January, 1967 when PAM was registered with the Registrar of Societies.

PAM currently has approximately 5,000 members consisting of professional architects, graduates and students. Apart from its registered address in the capital city, PAM membership is also represented across Malaysia with member chapters in Sabah, Sarawak, Penang (Northern chapter), Johor Bahru (Southern chapter) and the East Coast (East Coast chapter).

On 19 July 2017, PAM completed an important milestone with the official opening of its own headquarters building in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. The PAM Centre is a GBI Platinum-rated building, a result of an open architectural competition.

The institute organises the annual PAM Architecture Awards and maintains a regular extensive programme of publications and programmes on architectural matters relating to its members, the public and the environment.

For more information, please visit [www.pam.org.my](http://www.pam.org.my) or contact the Secretariat at:

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