

**Press Release**

**for Immediate Release**

## **PAM Cautions the Public Against Engaging Unregistered Persons Misrepresenting as Architects to Avoid Legal, Safety and Financial Risks**

**Kuala Lumpur, May 20, 2024** – As individuals or entities invest considerable time and money to build dream homes or buildings, Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) stresses the importance of exercising prudence when engaging building consultants, in order to avoid potential pitfalls.

PAM President Ar. Adrianta Aziz highlights the necessity of engaging registered professionals for architectural and interior design services. Architects, Interior Designers and Building Draughtsman registered with Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (LAM) can ensure adherence to professional standards and legal requirements, thereby mitigating risks for the building owner.

### **Risks in engaging unregistered persons**

The implications of engaging unregistered persons misrepresenting as Architects may be severe and far-reaching. Projects undertaken by unregistered persons or companies are not subjected to rigorous scrutiny, thereby exposing clients and the general public to a myriad of risks including substandard designs, safety issues such as compromised structural integrity, legal liabilities, potential abandonment and financial losses.

PAM Deputy President Ar. Dexter Koh shared that many homeowners only approach Architects to engage their services after they experienced problems, like contractors abandoning or absconding, or their unregistered designer not fulfilling their obligations, especially in obtaining building plan approvals. Therefore, it is imperative for the public to understand that appointing registered Architects guarantees accountability, competence, and compliance with industry standards. Registered Architects possess the necessary qualifications, expertise, and professional integrity to deliver exceptional architectural solutions combining safety, functionality, and aesthetic appeal.

### **Statutory board regulating Architects and the practice of architecture**

To verify the credentials of Architects, the public is encouraged to visit the Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia website at [www.lam.gov.my](http://www.lam.gov.my) to cross-reference individual Architects and their practice registration details. Registered Architects carry the professional prefix 'Ar.', similar to the distinctions of medical professionals.

President Adrianta Aziz, who is also a board member of Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia, emphasizes the statutory and ethical obligations of Architects are outlined in the Architects Act 1967. In Malaysia and many other countries, the term 'Architect' is protected by law and cannot be used by persons who are not registered under the provisions of the Act.

### **Wary of online platforms purportedly offering architectural services**

Joined by PAM Vice President Ar Ridha Razak, PAM also advises the public to be wary of online platforms which claim to offer designer and builder matching services for renovation works, as they often list only freelance or unregistered designers. One particular website

listed 191 companies as 'Architect' but upon investigation, only one company is a bona fide registered architectural practice.

### **Conclusion**

Members of the public who may have been misled into appointing unregistered persons should promptly cease all work and payments, and reporting the matter to the police or LAM, without delay.

The paramount concern of PAM remains the safety and well-being of the public, underscoring the collective responsibility of the institute and its members to uphold the standards of professionalism and integrity within the construction industry.

These professionals have recognised qualifications, requisite practical experience, sat and passed the examinations conducted by LAM, and registered with the Board - ensuring that buildings are not only aesthetically pleasing but also safe and compliant with regulatory standards.

For further information on Architects and Architecture, individuals can contact Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia.

-ENDS-

### **Encl: Photo Captions**

1. Ar. Adrianta Aziz, PAM President
2. Ar. Dexter Koh, PAM Deputy President
3. Ar. Ridha Razak, PAM Vice President

## **Contacts for Media Inquiries:**

### **Zarina Ibrahim**

PAM Executive Secretary  
Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)  
[zarina@pam.org.my](mailto:zarina@pam.org.my)  
+6016 304 4332

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

Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) — Malaysian Institute of Architects — is the main 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), Johore Baru (Southern chapter) and East Coast.

On 19 July 2017, PAM completed an important milestone with the official opening of its new own headquarters building in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. The new 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. It also organises a regular monthly "Meet the Architects" session for the public seeking relevant advice and guidance.

For more information, please visit [www.pam.org.my](http://www.pam.org.my) or contact the Secretariat at:  
Level 7, PAM Centre,  
99L, Jalan Tandok, Bangsar, 59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Email: [info@pam.org.my](mailto:info@pam.org.my)

Telephone: (+603) 2202 2866 Facsimile: (+603) 2202 2566