

**Press Release**

**for Immediate Release**

## **Architects: Cities Require Climate-Resilient Urban Design**

**Kuala Lumpur, May 8, 2024** – In response to the recent incident on Jalan Sultan Ismail, Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) stresses the immediate need for climate-resilient urban design strategies to safeguard public safety and infrastructure.

The incident yesterday, where strong winds and heavy rain uprooted a tree caused the loss of life of one individual and severely injured another. The uprooted trunk and large branches caused damage to vehicles and nearby street infrastructure, disrupted the Monorail, and disrupted traffic in the city. We express our sympathy to the family of the bereaved and all those adversely affected by this incident.

### **Creating climate-resilient cities a priority**

The frequency and intensity of extreme weather occurrences underscores the vulnerability of urban infrastructure to extreme weather events. It is important for local governments to make plans for climate resilience in our urban infrastructure and to improve our emergency preparedness initiatives.

Additionally, the incident underscores how our urban infrastructure systems are interconnected and intertwined and require a comprehensive approach to infrastructure design and maintenance to enhance overall resilience. Long-term solutions require investments towards improving the quality of our urban infrastructure. Suitable urban design professionals, often architecturally trained, would be best poised to deliver solutions that enhance liveability, improve health and well-being, and create climate-resilient design outcomes.

### **Adopt a proactive approach to tree management**

PAM has consistently advocated for a sustainable approach towards urban development. We echo the views of the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Dr Zaliha Mustafa that it is crucial to establish guidelines to improve tree management in our cities.

- **Conduct comprehensive tree assessments:** Local governments should have arborists employed to maintain a register of public trees. The health, condition, and value of existing street trees should be assessed before making any decisions regarding their removal, with removed trees to be replaced in an appropriate location nearby.
- **Develop tree management policies:** Establish clear guidelines and regulations to guide the management, maintenance, and protection of street trees, ensuring their long-term viability.
- **Foster community engagement:** Involve residents, community groups, and professional bodies such as PAM in decision-making processes related to street tree management in the spirit of Local Agenda 21.
- **Promote tree planting initiatives:** Encourage the planting of suitable tree species in urban areas, considering factors such as adaptability, biodiversity, and urban resilience.

### **Improving Emergency Preparedness**

We praise the swift response of emergency responders to yesterday's incident, in particular the Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba), the Royal Malaysian Police, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), and others. This underscores the need for readiness and collaboration among stakeholders. Along with investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, it is crucial that our cities develop rigorous risk assessment protocols, and the cultivation of a culture of preparedness.

The incident on Jalan Sultan Ismail serves as a poignant reminder of the tangible threats posed by climate change. By prioritising climate resilience in urban design and emergency preparedness, cities can build a safer, more sustainable future for all residents.

PAM counts among its members eminent architects and urban design professionals. We stand ready to assist in providing advice on resilient urban design strategies, especially in the replanning and redevelopment of existing aging infrastructure.

Ar. Adrianta Aziz  
President, Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)

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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) and Johore Baru (Southern chapter).

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:  
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