

EGM MATTERS CLARIFICATION TO MEMBERS

Dear PAM Colleagues,

Recently it has been made known to me that there has been a vicious and aggressive campaign to discredit our Institute. Amongst other things, there have been attempts to discredit and smear the credibility of members of the PAM Council. I truly regret that this group of individuals have acted with malicious intent by sending unfounded accusations about PAM to our members.

I have received many complaints from our members who received unsolicited text messages and emails, and the same members questioned how their contact details have been obtained by those persons. As it is our responsibility to protect our members' personal information, we have taken the necessary measures to protect our membership database. PAM secretariat has lodged two police reports based on the complaints received from our members, and we trust the authorities will proceed with their investigation accordingly.

Indeed, as the elections are upon us, I am moved to provide this note of clarification to you. The yearly elections are meant to be conducted in an honourable and healthy manner and this campaign of misinformation and personal attacks are totally uncalled for, and I hope in the interest of PAM that it will immediately stop. While I am willing to look past any issues that anyone may have with the Institute or any council member, I cannot allow such attacks to our Institute continue unanswered.

On the EGM matter of limitation of number of years for Past Presidents to be in Council, that was first proposed by Ar. Dato' Dr. Ken Yeang, Ar. Dato' Hajeedar and Ar. David Teh, we have handled the matter in accordance with the Constitution. There was a request to add an agenda on the appointment of KLAF director in the EGM, however, as per our Constitution, EGM can only be called for the amendment of the constitution and not for discussing other matters. Therefore, I have proposed to hold an Ordinary General Meeting right after the EGM to discuss the matter, but my proposal was not agreeable to the persons who requested for the EGM. On 2nd December 2017, a briefing session was held after the EGM to share information and facts about KLAF director appointment. Most of the members who attended the session are satisfied with the explanation.

Nevertheless, some members who are unhappy with the outcome have persisted to call for another EGM, which they now include request for amendment of the Constitution. PAM Council have acted according to the Constitution and agreed to hold the EGM on 20th March 2018. However the EGM was dissolved due to lack of quorum. On members' request, PAM Council had once again agreed and had called for another EGM on the 14th of April 2018, which includes the proposed resolutions from the 51 requisitors and also the proposed resolutions by Council. It appears that there are still dissatisfaction from the requisitors despite all our efforts to accommodate their requests. Legal letters are continually being issued to Council and unfounded threats were thrown at the Institute. Their disruptive actions have caused unnecessary burden to PAM Secretariat and all of us working in Council. The EGM will proceed as planned and we hope members turn up to decide collectively in order for PAM to move forward.

I wish to assure members that we are properly advised and that all our decisions are completely guided by the Constitution. We are confident with the positions adopted by Council and while we welcome any constructive criticisms, on behalf of PAM Council, I cannot accept any unfounded hurtful allegations to be thrown at PAM Council. Some of these anonymously penned accusations are just toxic and disrupting the functioning of PAM. We have constantly explained our positions in an open transparent manner, hence the continuing virulent attacks must stop.

On the matter of payment to Council Members, let me clarify the matter which has been twisted and perverted to discredit the individuals and PAM Council. Firstly, I wish to clarify that the projects and tasks in question are beyond the expectations and scope of a Council Member since these

tasks are full time positions. All procedures have been adhered to and the award of such projects are in order and by majority Council agreement after deliberation. I also wish to make clear that the two individuals who were continually attacked recently were not given the projects because they are the current Council Members, but rather because they are the ones Council deem best suited for the work required in order to ensure success and smooth operations.

Volunteerism is certainly a key measure of service to PAM and all of us in Council do our very best to serve PAM in this manner. However, when the tasks and time demands are way above the normal requirements of a Council Member voluntary work scope, it is only fair that the person should be compensated accordingly. This is important and I hope members understand this. It is ironic that the ones continually claiming voluntary service as their own noble contributions are the very ones who do the least when elected in Council. Most Council Members do understand this and take their roles seriously, but I regret that there are a few who chose to disrespect Council's decision and instead seek to deploy legal demands, covert actions and nasty insinuations when they do not get their way, resorting to all kinds of manouvers such as what we have witnessed of late. Their actions are selfish, unprofessional and unethical.

For the KLAF appointment, Ar. Ang Chee Cheong had revamped the entire format, structure and operations of the festival last year. Our income for KLAF 2017 doubled and visibility increased in all sectors. It has brought back many of our young members to PAM and provided a new area where PAM can take the lead. In the years that I have been in Council, Ar. Ang Chee Cheong has been a top performer and executed his duties and responsibilities with enthusiasm and innovation, very often without fear or favour. Council and I have advised him to remain silent in the face of all the recent attacks and instead, to continue his focus on the works and tasks given to have another excellent KLAF2018. A few days ago we had just launched the KLAF2018 Merdeka Interview book, which is another accomplishment for Ar. Ang Chee Cheong and Dr. Lai Chee Kien.

We wish to inform that we are now working closely with CIDB, KPKT and MPC under the Construction Industry Transformation Plan (CITP) Initiative Working Group 4, to improve the process of dealing with authorities and technical agencies. CIDB has awarded us a special grant for a pilot project to facilitate the improvement of the OSC process, which will lead to the development of a new OSC manual for six major cities in Malaysia. As a condition for disbursement of the grant, we are required to submit the name and resume of facilitators, a full time project manager, and support staff. The rate for the salary and honorarium payment for this project are in accordance with the rate set by KPKT. After approval by Council, Ar. Paul Lai Chu's name and CV were submitted to CIDB and KPKT for approval. Ar. Paul Lai Chu was appointed as the Project Manager for the programme only after the approval by CIDB and KPKT. Besides the honorarium and salary, CIDB also allow profit and management fee to PAM, which are beneficial for the Institute and our members. All members are also invited to contribute to this programme.

I have always believed that PAM can move forward and that we must be doing all we can towards reaching new heights for the Institute. I hope that members are fully clear with my explanations and should there continue to be any further matters requiring more explanation, please feel free to contact me.

It has been an exciting year with more trust given to us by the government and its agencies, but a challenging year in dealing with a few of our unhappy members. It was a disappointment for me to discover evidence that there are office bearers who conspire with parties outside Council to initiate action against Council and spread misinformation to further their own interests and agendas. Be that as it may, and despite all the obstacles and hurdles, I believe PAM Council has had an outstanding year and we have more projects and programmes planned in the coming year for the incoming PAM Council. PAM has had a long history and many achievements, along with many challenges, but we should always focus on moving forward and forging ahead for the best interests of our profession.

Thank you.

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President,
Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia