PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA
MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA
99L, Jalan Tandok, Bangsar
59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
P. O. Box 10855, 50726 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: +603 - 22022866 Fax: + 603 - 22022566
E-mail: info@pam.org.my Website: www.pam.org.my

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PAM Calls for Collaborative Action to Manage Construction Cost Escalation

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 April 2026 – Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) has released a timely Practice Note to guide the construction industry through current supply chain disruptions and sudden material price escalations. This advisory marks the first official initiative spearheaded by newly elected President Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng following the Institute's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 25 April 2026.

Mitigating Cost Disputes to Prevent Abandoned Projects

"Latest market data and strategic briefings regarding the global supply chain confirm that construction costs are unlikely to return to previous levels. The industry must accept this reality and adapt to this new baseline," stated Ar. Dexter Koh.

Given that many private sector construction projects utilise the PAM Form of Contract, this Practice Note provides critical, industry-wide guidance to Architects administering contracts during a time of sudden cost escalations. Architects have always fulfilled their role as fair and impartial administrators, advising equitable solutions for both the project owner and the contractor within the terms of the building contract. The practice note encourages a collaborative approach to resolving cost disputes, reducing the risk of stalled construction sites and, ultimately, project abandonment. By keeping developments viable and on track, industry stakeholders can work together to protect homebuyers, serving the broader public interest.

Expediting Approvals to Stimulate Economic Recovery

Building on this push for stability, PAM is also addressing the bureaucratic hurdles that slow down economic recovery.

"To mitigate the current economic downturn, we encourage local governments to expedite approvals for both planning and building applications. PAM is open to working closely with the Ministry of Local Government Development (KPKT) to look into areas where approvals could be fast-tracked," stated Ar. Dexter Koh. "Furthermore, providing targeted discounts on submission fees and development charges will temporarily incentivise developers, and stimulate the broader economy when it is needed most."

Fair Compensation for Work Done

While PAM welcomes short-term SME financing relief, true industry resilience requires fair business practices. As material prices surge, architects are frequently required to redesign to optimise costs on ongoing developments. Architects already on the job must be compensated fairly for client initiated changes to the project scope and/or requirements.

"Furthermore, professional fees must be upheld in accordance to statutory requirements within the Architects Act and subsidiary rules. We call upon all clients—including Government agencies and Government-Linked Companies (GLCs) which can lead by example—to adhere to statutory fee requirements and equitable payment milestones. This is

a fundamental business necessity to ensure architects are fully resourced to administer contracts robustly and deliver projects successfully," the PAM President reiterated.

New PAM Leadership Elected

This strategic intervention is fully backed by the newly elected PAM Council for the term of 2026/2027. Leading alongside President Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng are Deputy President Ar. Norzaini Mufti, Vice President Dato' Ar. IDr. Zulkhairi Md Zain, Honorary Secretary Ar. David Teoh Wui Leng, and Honorary Treasurer Ar. Ellina Suhaida Abdul Rahman. (A full list of Council Members is provided in an Appendix).

The PAM Practice Note is available for immediate reference by members and industry stakeholders at https://www.pam.org.my/images/resources/practice_notes/PAM_PN_2026-9_CONTRACT_COST_ESCALATION_DISRUPTIONS_3004.pdf

Appendix A

The newly elected Office Bearers of PAM Council 2026/27 are:

- **President**: Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng
- **Deputy President**: Ar. Norzaini Mufti
- **Vice President**: Dato' Ar. IDr. Zulkhairi Md Zain
- **Honorary Secretary**: Ar. David Teoh Wui Leng
- **Honorary Treasurer**: Ar. Ellina Suhaida Abdul Rahman

The newly elected Ordinary Council Members are:

- Ar. Esmonde Yap Shiwen
- Ar. Axxu Hoi Jung Wai
- Ar. Hue Chiun Hau
- Ar. Mohd Azil Mohamad Jamal
- Ar. Nazarudin bin Masat
- Ar. Ng Chee Twan
- Dato' Ar. Parama Nathan A/L K. Sanalgaramy
- Ar. IDr. Rushdina binti Ismail
- Ar. Wan Rosalia binti Wan Rosli

The elected Chapter Representatives to Council are:

- **Chairman, Northern Chapter**: Ar. Ooi Sze Meng
- **Chairman, Southern Chapter**: Ar. Ahmad Farik Abd Gaffar
- **Chairman, Sabah Chapter**: Ar. Daniel Koh Chung Hou
- **Chairman, Sarawak Chapter**: Ar. Lau Chun Leong
- **Chairman, East Coast Chapter**: Ar. Mohd Hazwan Hamidi

Encl:
Photo of PAM President 2026-2027, Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng
Photo of PAM Office Bearers 2026-2027: *From left Vice President: Dato' Ar. IDr. Zulkhairi Md Zain, Deputy President: Ar. Norzaini Mufti, President: Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng, Honorary Secretary: Ar. David Teoh Wui Leng and Honorary Treasurer: Ar. Ellina Suhaida Abdul Rahman*

Media Contact:
Anne Ekbal
Manager of PAM Group HR and Communications
Email: secretariat@pam.org.my
Tel: (+603) 2202 2866

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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), Johore Baru (Southern chapter) and East Coast.

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 or contact the Secretariat at:

Level 7, PAM Centre
99L, Jalan Tandok, Bangsar, 59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Email: info@pam.org.my
Telephone: (+603) 2202 2866
Fax: (+603) 2202 2566