

# CAN I HAVE A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME? ... the chairman

Dear fellow architects,

- A year to be forgotten. Never before a situation affects all levels of global society where the term pandemic has become the dreaded catchphrase. Sabah herself has endured various major changes especially in politic and unfortunately, accused of being the catalyst to the 2nd wave of Covid-19 despite the ominous warning.
- Xmas was a respite despite a short one. This coming 2021 year hopefully will usher a better life for all with those helming the administration wheel be mindful of the rakyat's well-being and run the country to the best of their ability.
- The new state government as we all know, has set up the Sabah Economic Advisory Council (SEAC) in which their main role is to advise the government on improving the economy. Engagement has been made between the professional bodies and the SEAC where we outlay the issues and suggestions pertinent to the service and building industry.
- PAM has taken the lead to compile and consolidate the feedbacks from IEM, ACEM and RISM and submitted a memorandum to the Council.
- Some of the key points in the memorandum:
  - **Expediting and improving the Planning approval system.**
  - **Sabah projects to be done by Sabah based consultants and be mindful of "backdoor" arrangement on engagement of non-local consultants.**
  - **Assistance from the government on adoption of new technology i.e., BIM. Allocating a sum in all projects budgeting for procurement and training of the professionals.**
  - **KK as a professional hub, thus the government has to give all the necessary assistance to the professionals to be the best. Local competitions for iconic building designs as catalyst for best practise and professionalism.**
  - **Joint Think Tank to assist the government in formulating guidelines and policies on matters such as housing, high cost of construction etc.**
- We hope the memorandum would become a thrust to improve the building industry and hence the economy of Sabah.
- The State budget has already been tabled and as tough as the situation is at the moment, planning and consideration are in place for hard hit economic sector such as construction and tourism.
- Would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ar Sharon Amin whom has become the Chapter's representative to PAM Gender Equality Committee chaired By Datuk Ar Tan Pei Ing.
- Chapter has regularly uploading "Know Your CC" profiles in the social media. Its good for the members to know their representatives on their backgrounds and aspirations especially on the betterment of the profession.



Currently Chapter is reviewing its IT capability as to serve the members better. With improved IT infra, Chapter website will become a One Stop Centre for members profiles and works complemented with fee structure, appointment, local authorities etc.

Talking about doing something for a good cause, Ar Tressie Yap has really taken in up to another level. She has sacrificed her "crowning glory" in support of frontliners and families in dire need of help amid the Covid-19 pandemic in the State. A round of applause to her and pray that she achieves her fund target. All the best Tressie...

PAM KL is organising cpdUNLIMITED 2.0 together with chapters, a hybrid of online and physical seminars initially planned on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021. But due to the increase of Covid-19 in KL and Selangor, had to be postponed to tentatively on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Sabah Chapter has committed 3 speakers namely Ar Sharon Amin, Ar Tressie Yap and Ar Hj Shariman Abdullah. Details would be shared soon.

Part 3 result just came out, with 2 candidates passing Paper 2. The Chapter is reaching out via Grad Rep Claudius Lee to those who took the exams, and also potential candidates, on their feedbacks. An objective survey is being planned and would officially convey it to LAM. Meanwhile, never give up and persist till the goal is achieved.

As a first, DBKK just appointed a lady mayor. DBKK has been the forefront in being first such as digital submission. We hope the new Mayor can take up the lead role in improving the system and a model to other local authorities.

On a sad note, one of our grad architect and ex JKR Johnny Majamin has passed away recently. Knew him personally when I was doing my practical in JKR quite some years back and really appreciated his friendship and wisdom. RIP Johnny.

Looking back 2020, it's a tough year for everybody. The Chapter is trying to be responsive and relevant to the members, and let us all pray that 2021 would bring the shining light everyone's hoping for.

Happy New Year, take care and stay safe.



**PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA Sabah Chapter**

Website: [pamsabah.com](http://pamsabah.com)

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