



Dear fellow architects,

- My term is almost up. By 10th April 2021 the Chapter will have a new chairman. Bar any unforeseen hiccup, we would have a senior and experienced architect to lead the Chapter with a nice mix of committee members. Let's give our undivided support to him and his team.
 - For the month of March, the Chapter had quite extensive engagements with DBKK and MLGH on various issues concerning the profession and the industry.
 - We managed to pay courtesy visits to the MLGH Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun and DBKK Mayor Puan Noorliza Awang Alip. During the visits, the Chapter reiterated the importance of the Architects and the relevant agencies to always work hand in hand especially on policy matters.
 - One of the major concerns conveyed during the courtesy visits was a recent circular by MPN that land must be converted to CL before DP can be considered. This requirement would definitely lengthen the process of obtaining construction permit and detrimental to the efforts by the State Government in attracting investments.
 - PAM, together with IEM, ACEM, RISM and SHAREDADA have written to MPN expressing the industry's concern. I was made to understand on recent MPN meeting that the process would revert to the parallel submissions of both DP and land conversion.
 - One thing for sure, if all the industry players speak in one voice, it would be loud enough to even move Mount Kinabalu.
 - At this time of hardship, we should never forget the needy. The Architect's Run was held with charity in mind and we are pleased to disburse some of the profits made to Bukit Harapan and Bakti Harapan.
 - This would be my last monthly notes as Chairman and I hope the members are duly in touch and aware of matters, events and programs undertaken by the Chapter, just by spending a minute reading it.
 - Two years back when I was given the honor of becoming the Chapter's Chairman, it was always my intention and objective to increase the profile and presence of our profession through engagement with State, Federal and public.
 - On State level, basically our involvement in policy making is to be more pronounced and relevant. Gone are the days where we grudgingly comply whatever guidelines and circulars issued to us no matter how inimical they are. Reasoning with good basis and professionalism would bring them to see the concern from our side.
 - Of course, things happening elsewhere would have bearing in our profession locally. Most importantly Sabah (and Sarawak) representation in LAM, should be reflective of the Malaysia Sabah partnership agreement. Its imperative our opinions and feedbacks be considered and heard such as practice matters, fee, P3 exam etc.
 - Another important aspect is the public perception of our profession. Borneo Architectural Festival (BAF) could be a platform in achieving this. We are looking to make it into a regional event with our first ever PAM Sabah Chapter Award. Nevertheless, the Pandemic has inevitably delayed it but rest assured, it is very much in the planning and let's hope situation improves soon.
 - Last not least, I would like to sincerely thank all the Chapter Committee and other members for the support and contribution during my term(s). Unity is important as the challenges to the profession are numerous and we should be on our toe all the times.
- When the going gets tough, the toughs get going.
- Thank you all, God Bless.

Ar RIZAL AHMAD BANJAR 2019-2021

