Dear Editor,

I agreed to your comment that all parties concerned should employ qualified Professional Engineers to manage their engineering works as to reduce projects failure. The question is how are we going to implement it? Will it be acceptable to other parties especially the authorities? Majority of project failures were due to lack of proper supervisions during construction stage. Most projects sites were supervise by inexperience or unqualified persons due to financial reasons. Of course there are laws but it is deemed not adequate, otherwise these problems would not have happen so rampantly. Every time a failure happens, public confidence in our engineering professions would be affected.

In my opinion it is about time that the supervision should be a separate entity altogether from the designers to ensure the integrity of a project in meeting the required standards and specifications. A project exceeding a certain criteria must engage a proper engineering firm to do the supervision works. This should be in form of Act or Law. Otherwise we will still face the problems we are facing now. And to make it worse we will pass the problems to our future engineers.

Thanks and regards,
Ir. Sahar Hj. Saad (M19274)

REPLY FROM THE BULLETIN EDITOR

We thank Ir. Sahar Hj. Saad for his letter to the Editor and we hope all readers within IEM and externally, with other Government and private agencies, do take heart to the contents and give serious thoughts to them. We hope some pragmatic ideas and workable proposals could materialise into the formation of strategies which the representatives of IEM could forward to the Board of Engineers, Malaysia for including them as amendments to the Registration of Engineers Act and Regulations.

There is no better time than now for us, who are in the relevant positions in contact with the Government and Regulators of today, to improve the situation and contribute towards a better future for our future generation of engineers.

It is always good to have check and balance as well as good ethics, moral responsibility, good core values and a duty of care. It is our appeal to all those in top managerial positions, who could decide on project implementation, financial and human resources, to realise that it could be a 'penny wise and pound foolish' situation if some incidents such as the recent tragic incident that happened at Plaza Damas construction site. The Government Regulators have been provided with certain authority and powers under the relevant Acts and Regulations. It is time for them to enforce them without fear or favour and if they find that there are loop-holes and limitations which need to be addressed, they should raise these to the relevant Ministries now so that safety is observed and always first in our minds and to ensure unnecessary sufferings and loss of lives are minimised if not prevented to happen at all.

A proposal would be to put in as an amendment to the Registration of Engineers Act and Regulations, and also the Electricity Supply Act and OSH Act, to hold Directors of companies involved in engineering works to fully comply with the Registration of Engineers Act and Regulations and that affected staff are registered with BEM and that staff in charge of engineering projects or works to be a Professional Engineer.

We all should take heed of the message from our beloved YAB Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to detractors of the Ninth Malaysian Plan that "The country and rakyat would brook no senseless brickbats aimed at the National Mission to put the country on track to achieving developed-nation status... We want something good for the nation… The people's interests come before personal interests". Let us follow his steadfast leadership by excellent example as our guiding star, rally behind him and together as a team in working towards the same noble objectives and in ensuring safety for all rakyat. ■