

## **THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, MALAYSIA**

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***PRESS STATEMENT***

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **IEM URGES IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION ON JURISDICTIONAL OVERLAP CAUSED BY THE AMENDMENTS OF THE LICENSED LAND SURVEYORS ACT 1958**

The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) expresses its deep concerns regarding the recently amended Licensed Land Surveyors Act 1958 (LLS), which introduces significant jurisdictional overlaps and legal uncertainties that may compromise professional boundaries, public safety, and the integrity of Malaysia's infrastructure development.

The amended LLS Act expands the scope of professional land surveyors into areas traditionally and rightfully governed by engineers under the Registration of Engineers Act 1967 (REA). IEM firmly believes this development poses risks to project accountability, regulatory consistency, and, most critically, public safety.

The amended Act introduces ambiguity in professional roles, particularly between engineers and land surveyors, in critical areas such as boundary determination, geodetic surveys, and infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, and tunnels. Many of these tasks demand specialized engineering knowledge, including complex calculations for stability, structural integrity, and safety. Expanding the scope of surveyors into these areas creates confusion over legal authority and accountability, potentially compromising project oversight and execution.

IEM also warns of the public safety risks associated with delegating engineering-intensive tasks to individuals who may not possess the necessary engineering qualifications. Infrastructure projects must adhere to stringent safety standards, and any misalignment in professional jurisdiction could lead to compromised structural integrity and diminished public trust in the safety and quality of national infrastructure.

Additionally, the introduction of overlapping jurisdiction between the LLS Act and the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) raises regulatory conflicts. Inconsistencies in project approval requirements, surveying accuracy, and design standards could create confusion among industry professionals, delay projects, increase costs, and spark legal disputes over regulatory precedence.

Furthermore, IEM emphasizes that the LLS Act risks undermining engineering standards by allowing surveying tasks to encroach upon specialized engineering work. Diluting professional qualifications could erode the technical rigor expected in engineering practices, posing long-term risks to infrastructure development and public welfare.

From a legal and economic standpoint, unresolved jurisdictional uncertainties may lead to disputes between professionals, delaying critical infrastructure projects and discouraging investment. Given the importance of infrastructure development in driving Malaysia's economic growth, clear regulatory guidelines are essential to maintaining investor confidence and project continuity.

To address these pressing concerns, IEM urges the government and all relevant stakeholders, including LLS and BEM, to take immediate action by:

**1. Clearly Defining Professional Boundaries**

Establishing a clear distinction between the roles and responsibilities of engineers and land surveyors to prevent jurisdictional disputes.

**2. Prioritizing Public Safety**

Ensuring that tasks requiring engineering expertise remain under the jurisdiction of qualified and registered engineers.

**3. Harmonizing Regulatory Frameworks**

Facilitating discussions between LLS, BEM, and IEM to align regulations and eliminate ambiguities that disrupt professional practices.

**4. Upholding Engineering Standards**

Maintaining the technical, ethical, and professional standards governing engineering work to safeguard public safety and national infrastructure integrity.

IEM remains committed to working with policymakers and industry stakeholders to uphold the highest standards of engineering excellence in Malaysia. The institution calls for an urgent review of the amended LLS Act to ensure that professional roles are clearly defined, regulatory conflicts are resolved, and public safety remains the top priority.

**Ir. Prof. Dr Jeffrey Chiang Choong Luin**

President  
The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia

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*For further information on this Press Release or The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia, kindly call , kindly call the IEM Secretariat Office at 03-78900130/ fax to 03-7957 7678 or email to sec@iem.org.my*

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**About the IEM**

*The Institution of Engineers of Malaysia (IEM) is a civil society organisation established to promote the science and profession of engineering in any of its disciplines and to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas related to engineering. Founded in 1959 and with a membership of over 41,000 today, IEM constitutes one of the largest professional organisations in the country. Amongst its many roles, the Institution plays an active part in supporting various sustainable socio-economic development of the country and in nation building. It represents the aspirations of its members, acts in the best interests of the public of whom its members serve whilst upholding the standing and image of the profession.*