



OFFICIAL OPENING ADDRESS

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MINISTER OF WORKS

NATIONAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE (NEC) 2026

THEME: ENGINEERING WITH INTEGRITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

18 AUGUST 2026 (TUESDAY)

ROYALE CHULAN KUALA LUMPUR

JALAN CONLAY KUALA LUMPUR

The salutations will be provided separately.

PENDAHULUAN

Salam sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI, Salam Segulai Sejalai.

1. Terlebih dahulu, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan dan ucapan terima kasih kepada Lembaga Jurutera Malaysia (LJM) atas jemputan merasmikan Konvensyen Kejuruteraan Kebangsaan 2026 atau National Engineering Convention 2026 (NEC2026) yang penuh bermakna ini.
2. Tahniah LJM atas penganjuran konvensyen yang menghimpunkan hampir 1,000 peserta daripada pelbagai bidang kepakaran dan sektor industry, termasuk delegasi antarabangsa di pentas NEC2026 ini yang menjadi platform untuk komuniti kejuruteraan bertukar pandangan dalam membincangkan cabaran dan peluang yang bakal membentuk masa hadapan bidang ini dan seterusnya memainkan peranan strategik dalam pembangunan negara dengan penuh tanggungjawab dan integriti.
3. Penyertaan ini mencerminkan kekuatan komuniti kejuruteraan dan pentingnya profesion ini dalam pembangunan negara. With that, allow me to continue my speech in English for the benefit of our international delegates.

THEME: ENGINEERING WITH INTEGRITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

4. Engineers are among the quiet drivers of a nation's progress. Every road, bridge, water treatment plant and power grid that supports our daily lives is a testament to their work. They connect communities, create opportunities and support the nation's economic growth.
5. But as engineering becomes increasingly digital, the responsibilities carried by engineers are also becoming more complex. This makes the theme of NEC2026 – **“Enginnering with Integrity in the Digital Age”** – particularly relevant.
6. Technologies such as Building Information Modelling, digital twins and the Internet of Things are creating new opportunities for greater efficiency, innovation, collaboration and informed decision-making. The engineering community must therefore be ready to embrace these developments and continuously strengthen its digital capabilities to remain relevant and competitive.
7. However, technological progress must never come at the expense of professional values. As engineering becomes more dependent on data and digital systems, we must ensure that decisions remain transparent, information remains reliable and technology is applied ethically.
8. Digital tools may change how engineers make decisions, but they must never weaken accountability for those decisions. Integrity must remain at the centre of the profession. This is essential to maintaining public confidence and ensuring that innovation ultimately serves the needs and safety of society.

9. The Ministry, together with BEM and relevant stakeholders will continue to support this transformation so that Malaysia develops an engineering profession that is technologically capable, globally competitive and above all, trusted by the public.

STRENGTHENING MALAYSIA'S ENGINEERING TALENT THROUGH TVET

Esteemed guests and members of the engineering community,

10. Technology alone will not build Malaysia's future. We also need the right talent.
11. Therefore, The Ministry of Works places strong emphasis on TVET as an important pathway for developing Malaysia's skilled technical workforce.
12. TVET must not be regarded as a secondary route. It is a critical part of our national talent pipeline. I am informed that BEM, through the Engineering Technology Accreditation Council is progressing efforts to convert engineering technology programmes into the TVET pathway.
13. This approach combines academic learning, industry exposure and internationally benchmarked competency standards to develop engineering technologies and technicians who are ready for real-world industry requirements.
14. This is particularly important in areas such as digital engineering, advanced manufacturing, energy and other emerging sectors. A stronger domestic technical workforce will also support Malaysia's

efforts to reduce reliance on highly skilled foreign labour and strengthen our national competitiveness.

15. Malaysia's industrial ambitions will ultimately depend on whether we can develop, retain and reward our own engineering talent.

STRENGTHENING REGULATION AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Distinguished guests,

16. At the same time, we must strengthen the institutions and regulations that protect the standing of the profession and more importantly, the public interest. The Government remains committed to strengthening the regulatory framework governing engineering practice.
17. One important initiative is the proposed amendment to the Registration of Engineers Act 1967, aimed at strengthening BEM's regulatory and enforcement powers. The proposed amendments are undergoing the necessary approval process, including consideration by Parliament.
18. This is not regulation for regulation's sake. It is about public safety, professional accountability and ensuring that engineering work is undertaken by people who are properly qualified to carry that responsibility.

19. I therefore want to make the Government's position clear: Professional engineering work that requires registration must be undertaken by appropriately registered and qualified persons.
20. Do not engage unregistered individuals to undertake professional engineering work that requires registration. Registration is not merely an administrative requirement. It is a safeguard for public safety and the public interest.
21. Where there is non-compliance, appropriate enforcement action, including penalties and fines where applicable, must follow.

MAJOR REFORM TO PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FEES

22. Another significant reform is the revision of the Scale of Fees for Professional Engineering Services. The revision is now at the final stage of approval before gazettment and is expected to be implemented in the near future. This will be one of the most significant reforms to the engineering services sector since the last revision in 1998.
23. The review, which has been ongoing since 2020, recognises that the economic environment, operating costs and the responsibilities and liabilities carried by professional engineers have changed considerably. The revised Scale of Fees will be mandatory for registered engineers and engineering consultancy practices. This

reform is important not only for professional standards, but also for the long-term sustainability of the profession.

24. If Malaysia wants to retain good engineers, engineering must offer young Malaysians a profession with a clear future, fair recognition and meaningful career progression. At the same time, our ambitions should go beyond Malaysia.
25. Under BEM's Strategic Plan 2026–2030, greater emphasis is being placed on strengthening the engineering consultancy sector and enhancing its recognition. Malaysian engineering expertise has the capability to compete internationally.
26. I encourage BEM and relevant agencies to create more opportunities for Malaysian engineering consultancy practices and professionals to expand their presence across regional and global markets.

CLOSING

Ladies and gentlemen,

27. Engineering is a profession built on knowledge, discipline and years of training. But qualifications alone do not define a great engineer.
28. The true measure of the profession is how knowledge is applied, how responsibility is carried and how the next generation is guided.

29. I therefore encourage senior engineers, professionals and academics to continue mentoring young engineers and inspiring more young Malaysians to enter this profession. As we embrace new technology and new opportunities, let us remember one simple principle: ***Build with knowledge. Lead with integrity. Move forward with purpose.***
30. That, to me, captures the spirit of “Engineering with Integrity in the Digital Age.”
31. Once again, I congratulate BEM on the successful organisation of NEC2026.
32. With that, it is my great pleasure to officially declare the National Engineering Conference 2026 open. I wish all of you a productive and successful NEC2026.

Thank you.