

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, MALAYSIA

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PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“IEM CALLS FOR GREATER SAFETY AWARENESS IN EV CHARGING INSTALLATIONS”

PETALING JAYA, 19 August 2026 — The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) views with concern the recent reported residential fire incident in Cheras, where an electric vehicle (EV) was reportedly being charged at the premises.

While the cause and circumstances of the incident should be established by the relevant authorities following a proper technical investigation, IEM believes it serves as a timely reminder of the importance of electrical safety as EV adoption, renewable energy systems and other new energy technologies become increasingly prevalent in Malaysian homes and buildings.

IEM President Ir. Yau Chau Fong stressed that EV charging systems should not be treated in the same manner as ordinary plug-and-play household appliances.

“EV charging involves significant and sustained electrical loads. The charging equipment, electrical supply, wiring, protective devices, earthing system and associated accessories must be appropriately selected, designed, installed, inspected and tested. Safety must come first.”

IEM urges electrical designers, electrical contractors and installers, competent persons, property owners and EV users to comply with the Suruhanjaya Tenaga (Energy Commission) Guidelines on Electric Vehicle Charging System (EVCS), together with all applicable statutory, regulatory and technical requirements.

EV charging equipment and associated electrical accessories should comply with the relevant approval, certification and safety requirements prescribed by Suruhanjaya Tenaga and other applicable authorities.

Consumers are advised to exercise particular caution when purchasing EV chargers, charging cables, adaptors and associated accessories through online platforms, and to verify their approval or certification status, technical compatibility and suitability for the intended electrical installation before use.

IEM also strongly discourages do-it-yourself (DIY) installation, alteration or modification of EV charging systems without the involvement of the appropriate competent person and, where required, professional engineering assessment and advice.

“Purchasing an EV charger online and simply connecting it to an existing electrical installation without a proper assessment can introduce unnecessary electrical and fire risks. The capacity and condition of the existing installation, maximum demand, cable sizing, protective devices, earthing arrangements and the characteristics of the charging equipment must all be properly considered.”

Growing Electrification Requires Greater Attention to Existing Installations

IEM emphasises that the broader electrical safety issue extends beyond EV charging.

Malaysian homes and buildings are increasingly incorporating higher electrical loads and new energy technologies, including solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, battery energy storage systems (BESS), EV charging systems, air-conditioning systems and other high-current electrical equipment.

Existing electrical installations, particularly those in older residential and commercial premises, may not have originally been designed for today's level of electrical demand or for the integration of multiple high-power electrical systems.

Before significant additional electrical loads are introduced, the adequacy and condition of the existing installation should therefore be properly assessed. Where necessary, appropriate upgrading should be undertaken to ensure that the incoming supply capacity, switchboards, cables, protective devices, earthing arrangements and other components remain suitable for the revised maximum demand and operating conditions.

Simply adding new electrical equipment without considering the installation as an integrated electrical system may compromise safety and reliability.

Public Awareness Is Essential

IEM believes greater public awareness is essential as Malaysia progresses towards greater electrification.

Consumers and property owners should recognise that electrical safety depends not only on the equipment being purchased, but also on how that equipment is selected, integrated, installed, protected, operated and maintained throughout its service life.

The use of appropriately approved equipment, engagement of competent persons, professional engineering assessment where required, and proper inspection, testing and maintenance are fundamental elements of electrical safety.

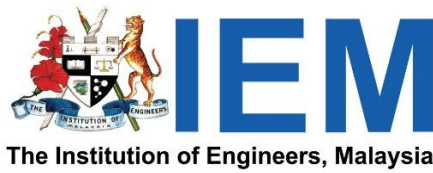
«“Malaysia's transition towards electric mobility, renewable energy, battery storage and greater electrification should continue. However, technology adoption must go hand in hand with engineering and electrical safety. We should embrace new technologies — but we must install, integrate and use them correctly.”»

IEM stands ready to work with Suruhanjaya Tenaga, the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia), relevant government agencies, industry stakeholders and the engineering profession to strengthen public awareness and promote good engineering and electrical safety practices as Malaysia advances towards an increasingly electrified and sustainable future.

IEM's message to the public is clear:

Use approved equipment. Engage competent persons. Avoid DIY installations. Ensure the electrical installation is adequate. Put safety first.

***For further information on this Press Statement or
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Ir. Yau Chau Fong
IEM President

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 40,000 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.