

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, MALAYSIA

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PRESS STATEMENT

10 September 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“IEM CALL FOR IMMEDIATE SAFETY AUDIT ON HIGHWAY STRUCTURES FOLLOWING NKVE COLLAPSE”

PETALING JAYA, 10 September 2026 — The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) views with grave concern the recent collapse of a large structure onto the New Klang Valley Expressway (NKVE) near Shah Alam. This alarming incident has raised serious and understandable concerns amongst road users and the general public regarding the safety and structural integrity of infrastructure and road furniture traversing our nation's major expressways.

IEM calls for an immediate, comprehensive structural safety audit of all overhead and high-risk structures along Malaysia's highway network. Public safety is paramount and the structural integrity of our critical transportation infrastructure must never be compromised.

Incidents of structural failure on major public arteries are unacceptable and demand an urgent and meticulous investigation. A thorough root-cause analysis must be conducted to establish whether this failure was precipitated by design flaws, material fatigue, constructional defects, external impact or deficiencies in scheduled maintenance. Non-Destructive Test (NDT) can be conducted for structural integrity of the structure.

In light of this incident, IEM proposes that the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM) and the Ministry of Works (KKR) introduce mandatory Periodic Operational Road Safety Audits (ORSA)—extending the framework of RSA Stage 5 (Post-Construction or Existing Situation) into a recurring requirement for all highway concessionaires. Comprehensive guidelines for periodic operational audits and structural assessments should be urgently formulated and implemented.

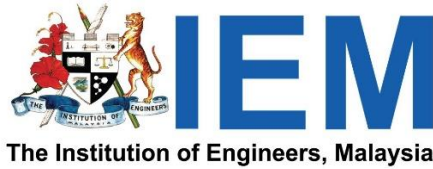
As the main professional body representing engineers in Malaysia, IEM stands ready to offer its technical expertise. We are prepared to collaborate with the Ministry of Works (KKR), the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM), and relevant highway concessionaires during this critical period. Our pool of experienced Professional Engineers is available to assist in independent safety audits, participate in root-cause investigations, and contribute to formulating long-term, proactive preventive strategies.

Furthermore, IEM urges all infrastructure owners and stakeholders to modernize their maintenance regimes by integrating Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) systems. Routine visual inspections alone are no longer sufficient for aging infrastructure; they must be complemented by sensor-based technologies to detect early signs of structural distress or material degradation before catastrophic failures occur. The industry must undergo a paradigm shift—moving from reactive or simple preventive maintenance towards Predictive Maintenance.

The Institution also calls for proactive measures to prevent safety incidents. For existing structures installed more than five years ago, critical elements should undergo safety inspections reviewed by Professional Engineers. New structures should be designed in accordance with Malaysian Standards, with both the design and installation methods approved by Professional Engineers.

IEM urges the relevant authorities to ensure that the findings of the NKVE collapse investigation are made transparent to the public and the engineering fraternity. Full transparency is essential for continuous technical learning, enabling the industry to update engineering codes, refine construction methodologies, and prevent similar failures in the future. IEM remains fully committed to serving on any independent technical committees or inquiry panels tasked with improving road safety and infrastructure resilience in Malaysia.

***For further information on this Press Statement or
The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia, kindly call the IEM Secretariat Office at
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Ir. Yau Chau Fong
IEM President

About the IEM

The Institution of Engineers of Malaysia (IEM) is a learned engineering society 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 45,000 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.