

# New standards for buildings in the works

WE are deeply saddened by the deaths and injury caused by the magnitude 5.9 earthquake which struck Sabah at around 7am on June 5. The earthquake also caused some damage to buildings.

The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) would like to express our heartfelt sympathies to the families of the victims.

Immediately after the incident, IEM Technical Committee on Earthquakes conducted an analysis to predict the level of ground shaking, which is measured in terms of Peak Ground Acceleration

(PGA), of the incident based on its own earthquake ground motion model.

The predicted result of the PGA value is in the order of 0.05g at Kota Kinabalu, which was about 60km from the epicentre of the earthquake.

This predicted level of ground shaking (PGA of 0.05g) is roughly consistent with the degree of damage to buildings as observed.

IEM is currently working with Sirim as the Standard Writing Organisation (SWO) to develop the Malaysia National Annex to

Eurocode 8: Design of structures for earthquake resistance. This draft National Annex proposed a reference PGA value of 0.12g (level of ground shaking) to be adopted for the design of ordinary buildings in Sabah.

IEM is of the opinion that all building designs take into consideration the seismic loading requirement.

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