

Engineers must innovate to face future challenges: DPM

KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said engineers must continue to innovate and be prepared to face future challenges, particularly those related to climate change, sustainable development and new technologies.

He said engineers should play a key role in creating technologies and local solutions to reduce dependence on foreign ones, instead of only carrying out development projects.

"What we need to do now is look to the future. What challenges are we facing and what challenges will come, and what are the needs of our

engineers today and in the future?" he said at the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) 2025 Awards and Appreciation Dinner on Friday.

Also present were BEM president Datuk Roslan Ismail, as well as Bernama CEO Datin Paduka Nur-ul Afida Kamaludin and its editor-in-chief Arul Rajoo Durar Raj.

Fadillah said climate change, unpredictable weather, floods, natural disasters and water shortage are among the issues that demand innovative solutions and sustainable engineering strategies.

He said the government is prioritising the digital economy and the Malaysia Madani

framework, which calls for engineers to ensure that all projects are sustainable and resilient against environmental challenges.

Citing the RM8 billion Langat 2 water treatment plant project in Selangor, he said its successful completion reflects the ability of local professionals to deliver large-scale projects effectively.

He added that while Malaysia has homegrown technology, more must be done to drive innovations, discoveries and new products so the country could become a creator of technology rather than merely a user.

"That is why, under the Madani framework, one of the core principles is that we must

be creators. This is where engineers play a role."

He also urged young engineers to step up involvement in research and development and embrace new technologies such as artificial intelligence to find solutions to current and future engineering challenges.

At the event, BEM presented the 2025 International Special Mention in Engineering Award to Universiti Putra Malaysia Faculty of Engineering Engineering Composite Research Group head Prof Dr Mohd Sapuan Salit and Maritime Institute of Malaysia acting director-general Prof Dr Syuhaida Ismail.

– Bernama