

2/11/2016

PRESS STATEMENT

*by Dato' Ir. Jaseni Maidinsa,
Chief Executive Officer,
PBA Holdings Bhd (PBAHB) and
Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP)*

PBAPP SEEKING EXPERT OPINION ON SAFETY OF AIR ITAM DAM ROAD

- Road Partially Cleared but Slope Uphill Looks Unstable
- Public Safety is the Main Concern
- Geotechnical Consultant Invited to Inspect Area

PENANG, Wednesday, (2/11/2016): Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) will seek the opinion of a geotechnical consultant for the State of Penang on the safety of Jalan Empangan Air Itam.

This road, leading to the Air Itam Dam, has been closed since 29/10/2016 following a landslide during a heavy storm. No one was injured.

A hill slope rising about 60 metres above a section of the road collapsed, approximately 350 metres up from the main entrance to the Kek Lok Si Temple.

Soil, fallen trees, vegetation and large rocks, including a huge boulder measuring 7 metres x 3 metres, was deposited onto the road. The debris had completely blocked a 30-metre section of the 5.5-metre wide road.

PBAPP personnel had worked around the clock since 11.00pm on 29/10/2016 to clear the debris. An excavator and a rock drilling crew were called in to clear up heavy debris as well as to break up large boulders into smaller manageable pieces.

Although part of the road has since been cleared, the slope uphill still looks unstable. There are huge boulders visibly resting on exposed soil just above the road.

As such, PBAPP has invited Dato' Ir. Dr. Gue See Sew, a geotechnical consultant for the Penang State Government, to inspect and assess the site. Based on his expert opinion, PBAPP will make a decision on whether to re-open the road or not.

The main concern has to be public safety. PBAPP understands that the Air Itam Dam is a popular public recreation centre. However, we have to consider the well-being of the thousands of people who use Jalan Empangan Air Itam to reach the dam, especially during this rainy season.

We hope that the public understands our concern. We will make an announcement after we consult Dato' Ir. Dr. Gue.

For now, the road must remain closed.

Thank You.

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