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PRESS RELEASE

## **NEW TELUK BAHANG DAM PUBLIC CAR PARK COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE**

PENANG, Friday (2/12/2016): The Penang State Government thanked Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) today for completing its new Teluk Bahang Dam Public Car Park ahead of schedule.

Chief Minister YAB Tuan Lim Guan Eng said the State Government had mentioned the need for a public car park in the area just 3 months ago. "Today, we are here to open this car park. I would like to say thank you and well done to PBAPP," he added.

YAB Lim commended for PBAPP reacting positively by investing RM478,000 to build the car park, on its own land, for public use.

"Moreover, PBAPP has completed this 4,500 sq. metre public facility ahead of schedule. A public tender was called on 5/9/2016. Work began on 1/10/2016 and was scheduled for completion on 9/12/2016. However, the project was completed by 25/11/2016," he said before officially opening the car park today.

The Teluk Bahang Dam Public Car Park provides 20 bus parking lots, 32 car parking lots and 15 motorcycle parking bays.

YAB Lim noted that the car park was open to the public free of charge.

"This is a gift from PBAPP. As such, I urge the public to kindly follow the rules and regulations set by PBAPP, and to use this car park responsibly," he said.

The Teluk Bahang Dam, he said, is the venue for international dragon boat races as well as triathlon and duathlon events. It is also a popular tourist attraction and a picturesque public recreational space. As such, he said, there was a need for better public parking facilities in the area, especially during weekends, festive occasions and holiday seasons.

“The Penang State Government will continue to promote, market and support the development of Teluk Bahang and its surroundings as an eco-friendly tropical paradise,” he said.

In fact, YAB Lim said, there were already many tourist attractions nearby, including the ‘Taman Rimba Rekreasi’ (managed by the Penang State Forestry Department) and the ‘Tropical Spice Garden’ in Batu Ferringhi.

On the road to Balik Pulau, he added, there were the ‘Tropical Fruit Farm’ and ‘Titi Kerawang Waterfalls.’ Meanwhile, the traditional Teluk Bahang seaside village and the Penang National Park were also nearby.

“All these attractions, together with the Teluk Bahang Dam, Escape and Entopia, have turned Teluk Bahang into an attractive multi-faceted tourist destination,” he added.

Meanwhile, PBAPP Chief Executive Officer Dato’ Ir. Jaseni Maidinsa said the PBAPP considered the Teluk Bahang Dam Public Carpark to be a corporate social responsibility and public service project.

“This is just a parking facility but it reflects our unwavering commitment to sustain a green environment and support eco-tourism,” he said.

Dato’ Ir. Jaseni pointed out that in 1986, the Penang Butterfly Farm opened on land that now belongs to PBAPP. In 2016, it relaunched as ‘Entopia’, in the same location, and the land is still leased from PBAPP.

The Teluk Bahang Dam was opened in 1999. Since then, this dam is open to walkers, joggers and tourists, and it even serves as a venue for selected international sporting events.

In 2004, PBAPP helped to draft legislation that was subsequently gazetted to protect 62.9 sq km of forestlands in Penang as water catchment areas. In 2009, the Penang State Government revised the legislation to provide more protection for these water catchments.

In 2005, PBAPP received ISO14001 certification for its environmental management system at the Teluk Bahang Dam and the Batu Ferringhi Water Treatment Plant.

In 2009, Sim Leisure was awarded a public tender to build an environmentally-friendly tourist attraction on land which formerly housed the project offices used during the construction of the Teluk Bahang Dam. 'Escape' opened its doors in 2012.

"Looking back through the years, PBAPP has always strived to be both environment-friendly and people-friendly in Penang. In other words, PBAPP has always been green... and we are proud to be green," Dato' Ir. Jaseni said.

"We believe that real-life interactions with nature is the best way to inspire the people, especially the children, to be more environmentally conscious," he added.

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