

8/11/2016

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

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

## **ROAD COLLAPSE NOT DUE TO PBAPP PIPELINE**

- PBAPP has not laid water pipelines at the location recently.
- 600mm water pipeline was laid in 1987, about 29 years ago.
- 304mm of rainfall recorded over 3 days at Teluk Bahang.

PENANG, Tuesday, (8/11/2016): The collapse of a stretch of road linking Batu Ferringhi to Teluk Bahang is NOT due to Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd's (PBAPP) pipe works.

In a Malay Mail online report dated 7/11/2016, Teluk Bahang State Assemblyman Datuk Shah Headan was quoted as stating that he "believed the cave-in was due to unstable slope conditions after PBAPP laid underground pipes in the area."

PBAPP disagrees with this allegation.

What actually happened is:

Intensive rainfall over the last 3 days caused a river of water to flow down the hillside, crossing the road to destabilise the slope supporting the road on the seafront side. This is similar to the recent incident at Jalan Lembah Permai on 13/10/2016.

For the record, PBAPP has not laid any new pipelines at the collapsed stretch of road in recent years.

There is an existing water supply pipeline under the road. The following are some key facts and figures about this 600mm mild steel pipeline:

- It was laid in 1987, about 29 years ago.

- In the period 1987 – 2000, this pipeline was used to deliver raw water from the Teluk Bahang Raw Water Pumping Station to the Batu Ferringhi Aqueduct.
- Since the opening of the Batu Ferringhi Treatment Plant in 2000, it has been supplying treated water from the Batu Ferringhi Treatment Plant to Teluk Bahang.
- The road collapse on 7/11/2016 did not damage the pipeline. The pipeline was properly laid 29 years ago, and this is proven by the fact that the road has been in good condition since 1987.

However, due to the mishap, PBAPP has placed a row of galvanised iron pipes at the collapsed section of the road as a temporary measure to protect the pipeline. This pipeline is important because it supplies treated water to Teluk Bahang, 24/7.

PBAPP is not aware of any engineering data, evidence or proof indicating that the collapse is caused by the pipeline. *It is very highly improbable that a pipeline that was laid in 1987 can suddenly cause a road collapse in 2016.*

### 304mm OF INTENSE RAINFALL OVER 3 DAYS

We have briefed Penang State Executive Councillor YB Lim Hock Seng on the likely cause of the mishap. YB Lim, who chairs the State Committee for Public Works, Utilities and Transport, personally visited the site on 7/11/2016.

A total of 304mm of rainfall was recorded by PBAPP at Teluk Bahang over the last three days, from 5/11/2016 to 7/11/2016 (Saturday – Monday). The rainfall was unusually intensive.

YB Lim concurs with PBAPP that the unusually intensive rainfall is likely the root cause of the mishap.

The collapsed road is sandwiched between a hillside and the seafront. Intense rainfall would have caused rapid flows of water downhill, crossing the road, and consequently destabilising the seafront side of the road.

Repeated torrents of fast surface flowing water would have washed away the slopes supporting the road structure on the seafront side. Without sufficient support, the road surface would have cracked, and then, collapsed.

Please consider the following facts and figures:

- PBAPP recorded 304mm of rainfall at Teluk Bahang over a period of 3 days (5/11/2016 – 7/11/2016).
- In comparison, PBAPP recorded only 356mm of rainfall at Teluk Bahang in the first 3 months of this year (January, February and March 2016).
- The road collapsed after the unusually intensive rainfall over the past three days.

It is likely that this mishap was triggered by natural causes. This may be subsequently verified by the relevant experts.

It is incorrect to blame PBAPP without considering the relevant facts.

Thank You.

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