

12/1/2017

PRESS STATEMENT

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

SLOPE REPAIR WORKS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE KEK LOK SI TEMPLE, NOT PBAPP

- **On 29/10/2016, a landslide occurred on land belonging to Kek Lok Si Temple. The landslide deposited large boulders, soil and vegetation on a section of Jalan Empangan Air Itam which is under the jurisdiction of JKR.**
- **After a meeting on 21/11/2016 at the Penang Chief Minister's Office, the Kek Lok Si Temple agreed to repair the slope.**
- **PBAPP is controlling access at the road in the interests of public safety until the slope is properly stabilised.**

PENANG, Thursday, (12/1/2017): Works to repair the slope above Jalan Empangan Air Itam, where a landslide had occurred on 29/10/2016, is being undertaken by the Kek Lok Si Temple, and not Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP).

Recently, there have been several Press reports quoting Penang Gerakan spokesman Cheang Chee Gooi as stating that he had written to us, requesting for the road to be repaired as soon as possible.

We would like to reiterate the following facts:

1. The danger lies with the unstable slope above the road, and not the road itself.
2. The responsibility to repair the slope rests with the Kek Lok Si Temple because the slope is located on land belonging to the temple.
3. Any queries on the slope repair works should rightly be directed to the Kek Lok Si Temple, and not PBAPP.

Chronology of Events

On 29/10/2016, a landslide occurred at the slope during a heavy storm, depositing huge boulders, soil, fallen trees and vegetation onto the road leading to the Air Itam Dam.

On 16/11/2016, Penang State geotechnical consultant Dato' Ir. Dr. Gue See Sew visited the site of the landslide with Penang State Executive Councillor YB Lim Hock Seng, Air Itam State Assemblyman YB Wong Hon Wai and PBAPP Chief Operating Officer Ir. Chong Meng Choon. Dato' Ir. Dr. Gue concluded that it was unsafe to re-open the road to the public until the landslide area is repaired and made good.

On 21/11/2016, Penang Chief Minister YAB Tuan Lim Guan Eng chaired a meeting in Komtar, attended by Kek Lok Si Temple trustee Dato' Steven Ooi Teik Heng and Ir. Dr. Gue, as well as representatives from PBAPP, MBPP and JKR. During the meeting, Dato' Ooi was informed that the landslide originated and occurred at a slope on Lot 442, Mukim 14, DTL, belonging to the temple. The meeting concluded that the Kek Lok Si Temple is responsible for the slope repair as soon as possible.

Public Safety is PBAPP's Main Concern

Since 29/10/2016, PBAPP has been controlling access at Jalan Empangan Air Itam because public safety is the main concern. Until the slope is verified to be safe, this road will remain closed to the general public.

Meanwhile, residents with passes issued by PBAPP are allowed to use the road at their own risk. Special arrangements have also been made to allow PBAPP, TNB and Telekom personnel to access the dam for work purposes.

Although these arrangements may be inconvenient, we must prioritise public safety and facilitate the slope repair works.

Address Queries to the Kek Lok Si Temple

Please note that while PBAPP is helping to ensure public safety, we are not undertaking the slope repair works.

These repair works are being undertaken by the Kek Lok Si Temple.

We have received a copy of a letter dated 10/1/2017, sent by the temple's appointed consultant to the Penang Island City Council (MBPP) to seek approval to start work.

Accordingly, all queries on the work schedule, as well as requests to expedite the works, should be addressed directly to the Kek Lok Si Temple, and not PBAPP.

Thank You.

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

Contact : Puan Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah
Corporate Communications Unit
Tel : 04-200 6607
Email : syarifah@pba.com.my