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PRESS RELEASE

STATUS OF THE PENANG HILL FUNICULAR SERVICE

The Penang Hill Funicular service has resumed operations since 9 November 2021 after it was temporarily disrupted on 7 November 2021 at 1.50pm and on 8 November 2021 at 11.30am.

Penang Hill Corporation (PHC) wishes to reinforce that the safety of the funicular service is of utmost priority. The Penang Hill Funicular service had been running non-stop for the past few weeks after extended period of carrying light loads as a result of various Movement Control Orders (MCO) implemented during 2020 and 2021.

PHC wishes to stress that despite the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) under the National Recovery Plan permitting full capacity for public transportation, the funicular service has always operated below its maximum capacity of 100 persons per trip. The service was disrupted several times on 7 November 2021 due to false signals triggered by the haul rope supervision system that monitors the alignment of the wire rope at its proper location. In this case, there was some wear and tear on the insulation liner inside the rope drum which caused the wire rope to touch the rope drum, hence triggering the safety warning. The haul rope monitoring system also displayed intermittent behavior. PHC has carried out investigation and assures that all safety mechanism is in place. The disruption was neither due to overloading of the funicular capacity nor the misalignment of the wire rope.

PHC takes safety issues very seriously. When the alarm was triggered on 7 November 2021, PHC immediately stopped the funicular to quickly determine the issue. To enable a thorough inspection of the potential fault, PHC immediately transported all visitors back to the Lower Station via the funicular and the jeep service to rapidly clear the visitors queuing at the Upper Station. Upon clearance of all visitors from the Upper Station, PHC immediately carried out full inspection and rectification work on the fault confirmed. The duration took several hours to identify the root cause, followed by rectification works. PHC performed full test runs on the funicular system to ensure the safety of the system before operation resumed.

The Bi-Annual Funicular Maintenance works which require the service of the manufacturer's engineers, Garaventa AG Switzerland, had been postponed since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020 and 2021 which restricted international travel. PHC has been in regular contact with Garaventa AG to schedule the next maintenance by them as early as possible.

PHC is bringing forward the 2022 Bi-Annual Funicular Maintenance to end of 2021, on the upcoming Tuesdays and Wednesdays over four (4) consecutive weeks starting this week as announced earlier, in the table below.

Week	Date	Day
1	16 - 17 November 2021	Tuesday & Wednesday
2	23 - 24 November 2021	
3	30 November - 1 December 2021	
4	7 - 8 December 2021	

PHC would like to thank all visitors for their patience and continuous support to Penang Hill. Any inconvenience caused is very much regretted.

For enquiries, please contact Penang Hill Corporation at 04-828 8880 or email to inquiries@penanghill.gov.my.

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About Penang Hill Corporation

Penang Hill Corporation was established in 2009 through an enactment passed by the Penang State Legislative Assembly. Its main focus is to manage the funicular system, maintain and develop Penang Hill as a major ecotourism destination, and its vision is to make Penang Hill the hill resort of choice in Malaysia and the region.

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