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## PRESS RELEASE

### PENANG HILL RAILWAY CELEBRATES 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH A DECORATIVE ARTWORK AT THE AIR ITAM ROUNDABOUT

In commemoration of **Penang Hill Railway's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - a century of service - the Air Itam main roundabout is decorated as one of the highlights of its centenary celebration.

This memorable occasion echoes a joint effort between **YB Joseph Ng, State Assemblyman for Air Itam**, the **OHM Group**, and **Penang Hill Corporation**, who have collaborated to decorate the iconic roundabout and commemorate the historic centenary of the Penang Hill Railway.

The region known as Air Itam (or Ayer Itam / Ayer Hitam), which derived its name from the murky water of the Air Itam River, had its beginnings in the late 18th century shortly after the establishment of Penang Island by Captain Francis Light in 1786. The British administration harboured intentions of transforming Air Itam, including Penang Hill, into a thriving agricultural hub and spice farms.

To this day, fruits and vegetables are still grown at the hill, and fresh produce is then brought downhill to the wet markets. This illustrates the strong connection between Penang Hill and Air Itam, where the funicular was the lifeline for the farmers to bring down their products during the early days.

Since the completion of the funicular railway in 1923 and the urbanisation of Air Itam from the 1950s, the area has undergone significant transformations. Visitors, the community, and stakeholders have become interdependent, contributing to socio-economic development in the surrounding areas.

The Air Itam roundabout, a central landmark in the heart of Air Itam, is now enhanced with a customised 7-feet-tall "Penang Hill Railway 100 Years of Transformation" decorative artwork to celebrate a century of progress and heritage.

This enhancement of Air Itam roundabout, made possible through the dedicated support of YB Joseph Ng, the initiative of Penang Hill Corporation, the contribution of OHM Group, as well as the encouragement and advice of YB Lim Guan Eng, not only further beautifies the area but also instils a sense of pride among the local community in Bukit Bendera, especially in Air Itam, Air Putih and the surrounding areas, as a symbol of this memorable occasion.

The Penang Hill Railway Centenary Celebration marks a hundred years of awe-inspiring journeys, transporting over 48 million people, to the summit of Penang Hill. This remarkable milestone pays tribute to the railway's rich history, connecting locals and tourists with breathtaking panoramic views and nature.

The collaboration creates an exciting synergy that brings together the past, present, and future of Penang's heritage, further solidifying the commitment to preserving and celebrating this iconic heritage of Malaysia.

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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, undertake the development of socio-economy and infrastructure in Penang Hill and promote the Hill as a major ecotourism destination, in its vision to make Penang Hill the Hill Resort of Choice in Malaysia and the region.

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