

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 April 2018

Situation under control at Tri Pinnacle

GEORGE TOWN: A fire had occurred at Tri Pinnacle construction site at approximately 5.30pm yesterday. No casualties or serious injuries were reported.

We have 235 workers on site and all 235 are accounted for.

We also confirm and assure that the fire did not affect or enter into the units as the fire affected only 4 areas which are the temporary storage site and the timber form works, both located at level 6; the vertical rubbish chute and lastly the rubber sealant on the water tank on the roof top.

The confirmed cause of the incident is not yet determined as the Fire Department is currently conducting investigations on the site. We suspect that a short circuit on the sixth floor may be a possible cause of the fire. The sixth floor houses the temporary transition area and the parking for the development.

The safety officer noticed the fire and raised the alarm and he together with some other workers attempted to put out the fire by using the 20 fire extinguishers and all other fire equipment that were readily available but to no avail. Thereafter the Fire Department was informed and arrived shortly and by 7.15pm was able to put out the fire as all firefighting equipment (including wet risers, fire extinguishers and other related equipment are all functioning and in good working condition).

The newspaper report stating that seven workers were trapped inside the buildings is not true. The seven as reported (two who are from Myanmar, three from Pakistan and two local, ranging from the age of 23 to 48 years old) were in fact safely evacuated and brought to safety within minutes after the arrival of the Fire Department.

Only one, namely Bulu Sharma from Myanmar was brought to Hospital Pulau Pinang for a medical check-up.

On a separate note, four other workers who were located at the highest points of the towers were advised for their safety to remain where they were until the fire below was put out. At approximately 7.15pm the fire was put out and at 7.30pm, personnels from the Fire Department and four site supervisors went up to bring the four said workers down to safety.

The wet risers that were connected from level 5 through to the roof were all functioning and in good working conditions and were used to put out the fire that had caught up on the floor where the water tanks were located.

The rubber water sealant at the roof top had caught fire due to the residue which gives the impression that the fire affected the whole tower is due to the fire below as the wind carried it through the rubbish chutes at the construction site to the higher floors. We reiterate that the fire did not affect any other area other than what has been stated above.

The Fire Department's only way to go up to higher floors were via the staircase and thus making their efforts difficult to put out fires on higher floors .

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Checks were further carried out after all the fires were contained. From 11.30pm to 2.30am, Aspen Group's site staff and the Fire Department went floor to floor to counter check that there were no more fire and no workers were left behind and the Fire Department confirmed that there were indeed no more fire and that there were no workers left behind. At 3.30am, the Fire Department confirmed that all fires have been put out and left the site.

The Fire Department with their forensics team have returned to the site of incident today to determine the actual cause of the fire and will come back with a full report soon.

We again assure the purchasers that the residential units of both the affordable and low medium cost units are not affected in any manner by the fire.

At the moment, all works at the site have been stopped for further inspection to be conducted by engineers, architects and all other relevant consultants of the Tri Pinnacle project. Other relevant authorities have also been gathered to ensure that a thorough investigation is conducted. This is to determine the remedial work that is to be done, if any.

Furthermore, structural and other main parts of the building will be fully inspected to ensure that they have not been affected in any possible way.

'I personally ask that the sensitivity and the feelings of the home purchasers be looked upon before any speculative remarks are made. Also, sharing of information or pictures of related matters should also be curtailed at this moment until final investigations can give a definite answer as to the cause of the fire', said Dato' M. Murly, President and Group Chief Executive Officer.

'I would like to commend the safety and site team for handling the incident with due diligence and in accordance with safety hazard procedures. I would also like to thank the Fire Department for their prompt response to our emergency and their professionalism in handling the situation'.

'Once we complete our own inspections and investigations, we will make it a priority to send out the relevant communications and details to give the peace of mind to our purchasers. At this point, it is Aspen Group's top most priority to ensure that the structure of the building is not compromised in any way and we reiterate that safety always comes first', Dato' Murly further added.

Ends/

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