



Ministerial Statement

The Hon. Trevor G. Moniz JP, MP

Minister of Public Works

Update on Palmetto Road Lane Closure

Friday December 6th 2013

Mr. Speaker, on the 28th February 2013 there was quite a significant collapse of the rock face noticed belonging to a property located on Perimeter Lane in Pembroke by the Highways Engineers within the Ministry of Public Works. Following inspections to the site, concerns were raised by the engineers regarding the stability of the exposed rock face and its proximity to the traffic lanes on Palmetto Road.

The decision was therefore taken to close the lane closest to the failed rock face and to restrict Palmetto Road to single lane operation with the use of traffic lights in an effort to ensure no further damage could occur to the road.... as well as ensure the safety of pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

It was soon learned that the landowners of property situated on Perimeter Lane commenced construction of a retaining wall in the Spring of 2010 but

following design changes and financial challenges, were only able to complete a portion of the work. The Ministry of Public Works carried out an independent check of the proposed wall and determined that it was substandard and therefore, would need to be redesigned.

Officials within the Ministry met with one of the landowners to determine where the construction process was.... since the traffic lights could not stay up indefinitely. The landowner was then advised of the Ministry's standing procedure, and that was to issue a ***Statutory Nuisance Notice***, in accordance with Sections 9 and 10 of the Public Lands Act 1984. Section 9 in particular provides the Minister responsible for Public Works with the authority to issue a Notice if he is of the opinion that a structure, wall, road, fence, bank etc. pose a danger or is gravely inconvenient to users of the Highway.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Public Works subsequently issued a Statutory Nuisance Notice to the landowners in May of this year requesting that they submit a design acceptable to the Ministry along with timelines for the construction. The landowners failed to respond to this request and as a result it was determined that to progress the reopening of Palmetto Road to the public it would be better for the Ministry of Public Works to carry out the design and construction works then claim costs back from the landowners.

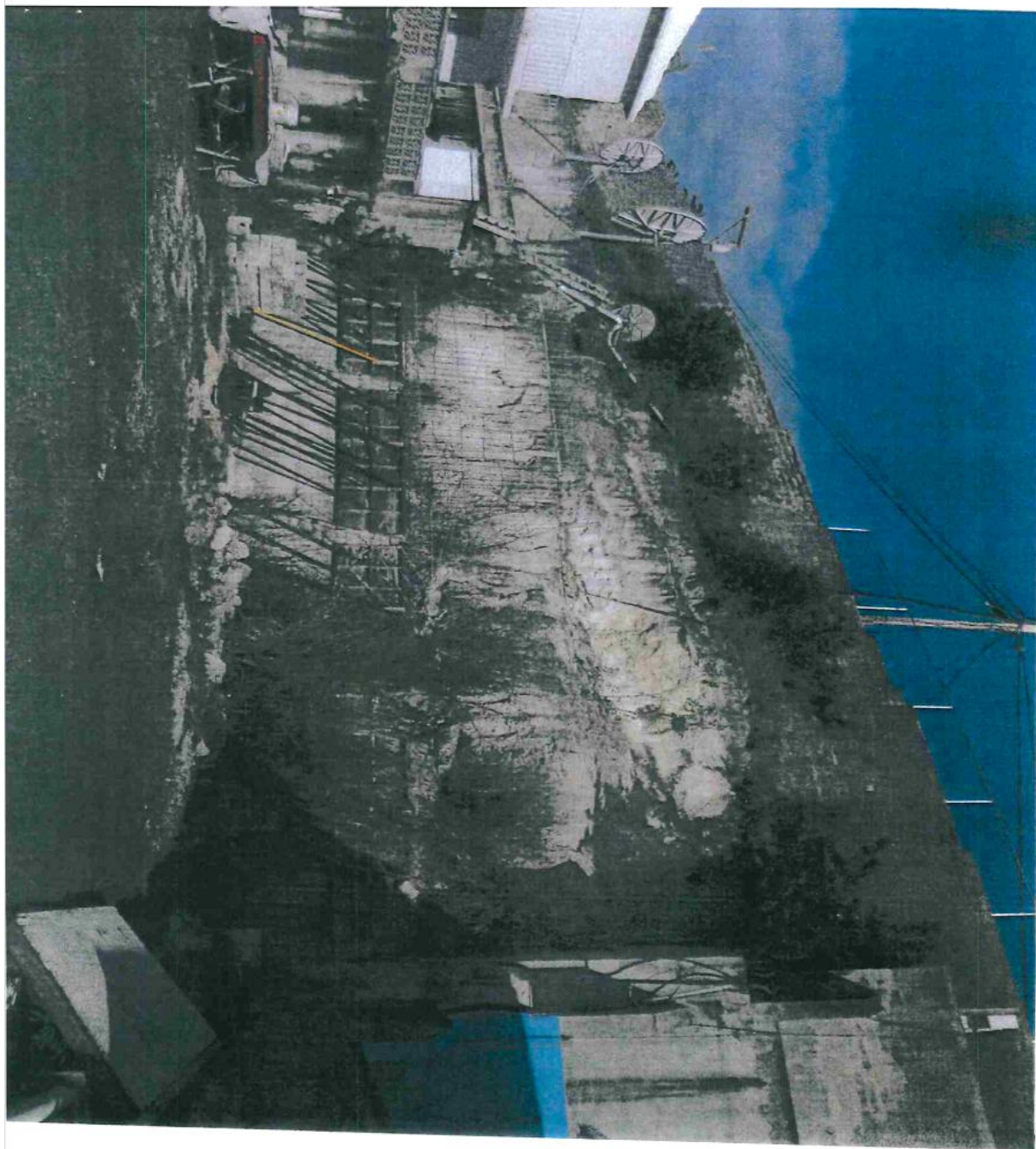
Mr. Speaker, due to the shortage of engineers within the Structures Section the Ministry engaged the services of ***Onsite Engineering*** to carry out the design works. Onsite has completed the survey of the site ... completed the preliminary design workwith the detailed design work expected to be complete by later this month or early in January 2014.

The intention is to tender the project in January 2014 with the anticipated construction works to get underway in February 2014. As the job is fairly large, the road is expected to be re-opened sometime in June of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the public for their patience over the last six months since the traffic lights have been in place - which may have caused some minor traffic delays. However, I would rather have a few delays in traffic than to make apology for any tragedies that could occur if I did not take pro-active steps to have one lane operation.

Once the wall has been repaired satisfactorily, I will update the members of this Honourable House as well as notify the public by way of media announcements accordingly.

Thank you **Mr. Speaker!**



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GENERAL NOTE:

1	For Review	20 Dec 13
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DATE	BY	PROJECT NAME
		Perimeter Ln Retaining Wall

Perimeter Ln

BUDGET TITLE

Plan and Sections

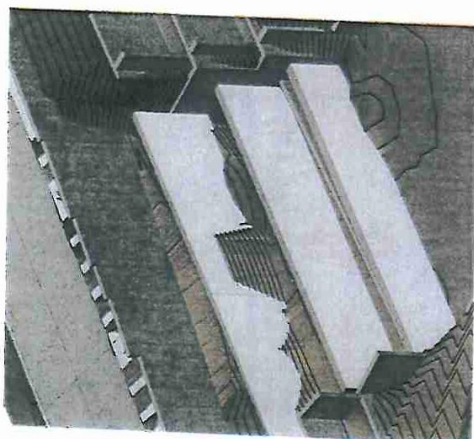
Submitted for Review

SCALE	SHEET SIZE
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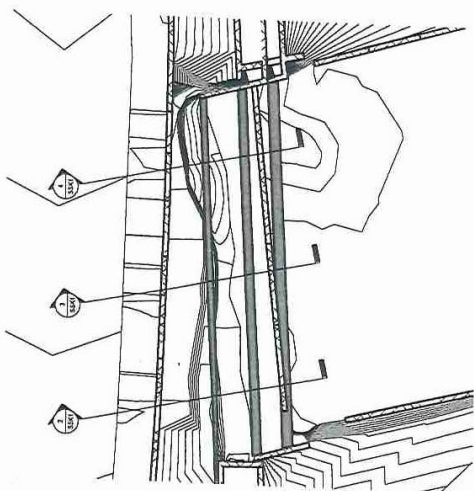
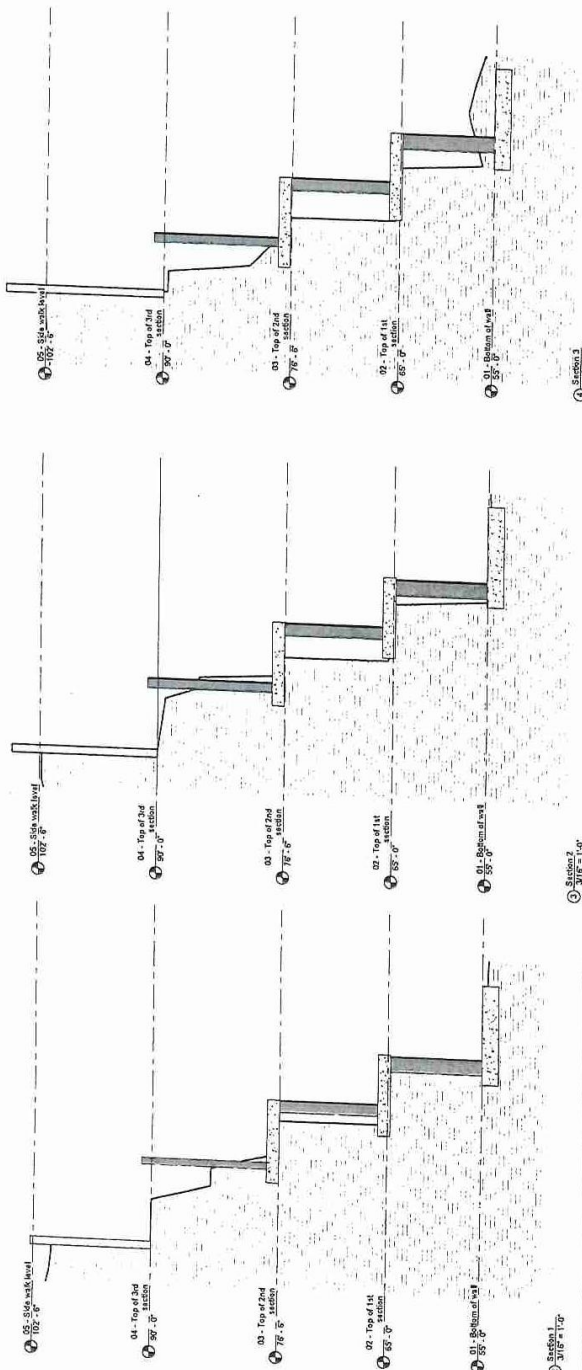
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Section 3