

FORMATION OF PULAU BATU HAIRAN AND OTHER ISLANDS AROUND PULAU BANGGI, NORTHERN SABAH

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An island 100 m in diameter, emerged from the sea east of Pulau Banggi in northern Sabah on the 6th May 1988. The appearance was accompanied by rumbling sounds but there were no outbursts of natural gas or water. The material forming the island consists of grey mud, grey and red mudstone, blocks of sandstone, igneous rocks and life corals. The rock fragments are similar to those of the Chert-Spilite, Kudat and Crocker Formations. Radial fractures are the prominent features on the dome-shaped island.

Diapiric action was the likely mechanism for the formation of the island. Many of the more than forty small islands on the east and southeast of Pulau Banggi were probably also similarly formed along major fracture zones of shallow depths.

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