

**(Without Prejudice)**

**The collapse of the Block A of the Highland Towers, Ampang Jaya  
— the geological, geomorphological and geotechnical factors  
and the probable cause of the collapse**

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1. Rumbling noise for 3 to 5 minutes was heard by most witnesses. Trees, soil, rubble walls started to fall from half way up the slope behind Block A to the lower levels. The landslide debris came to rest and were piled up 2 to 3 storeys high over the space occupied by two car parks and a badminton court immediately behind Block A (actual distance between the badminton court to the building is about 3 metres).
2. A horrendous sound was heard by a number of eye-witnesses when the landslide material fell and slide onto the car parks. This horrendous sound is described as the sound of crushing of

metal.

3. The noise then stopped. An eerie silence of 20 seconds or more then followed. This was likened to the calm before the storm.
4. The rubble wall towards the left front of the Block A collapsed (photo evidence) and earth fell onto the road on the left front corner of the Block A (one of the entrance roads leading to the Highland Towers). Another witness also notice that earth fell on the cars parked on the access road on the left of the Block A leading to the car park.
5. Eye-witnesses had said that parts of the badminton court between the Block A and the landslide debris which had piled up began to crack and moved forward.
6. A crack appeared on the ground in front of the building and it runs parallel to the front two quadrants of Block A.
7. The road by the left of the Block A which leads to the car park had given way and cars parked on this part of the access road appeared to have sunk.
8. Block A or parts of it (actually the front left corner) was observed to have moved forward 5 to 10 ft.
9. In the building, eye-witness felt several jerks in various directions and then the building began to vibrate. The ceilings of some of the condo units fell through and the floor gave way as the vibration became more intense.
10. From outside, glass windows and walls appeared to have shattered. The shattered glasses and some bricks were flung out from the higher floors.
11. The building apparently arched forward and fell followed by a loud whooshing noise.
12. A thick cloud of dust enveloped the collapse building.

The geological, geotechnical and geomorphological factors pertaining to the Block A of the Highland Towers shall be discussed. The deduced sequence of events leading to the collapse of Block A shall be presented. The probable cause/s will be left for the audience to judge.

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