

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CANNONBALLS DISCOVERED IN SAME LOCATION AS 200-YEAR-OLD CANNONS AT FORT CORNWALLIS**

GEORGE TOWN: Several cannonballs have been discovered at Fort Cornwallis from 26 to 28 February 2018 in the trench where two cannons believed to be over 200 years old were found on 19 February 2018.

One of the cannonballs measures approximately 10cm in diameter, while the others, resembling canister shots, measure between 3cm and 6cm in diameter. They were uncovered by graduate students from the Centre for Global Archaeological Research in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), namely Noridayu Bakry, Nurulnatasha Azman and Suhana Yusof during excavation works on site.

The excavation project is an initiative by the Penang State Government to reinstate the historical moat and other defensive outworks that surround Fort Cornwallis. The excavation is endorsed by Jabatan Warisan Negara and is being conducted by George Town Conservation and Development Corporation (GTCDC) - a collaboration between the Penang State Government, Think City and Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

On 19 February 2018, the Centre's director, Prof. Datuk Dr. Mokhtar Saidin and his team had discovered the two historical cannons while digging for the main door of the fort. Prof. Dr. Mokhtar had said the inscription on one of the cannons suggest that they date to the reign of King George III (1760-1820). With this discovery, Prof. Dr. Mokhtar had said the early interpretations of the historical British fort as a peaceful site could possibly be changed.

The USM archaeological team is finalising plans to move the cannons safely from Fort Cornwallis to its Center for Global Archaeological Research for conservation; taking into consideration that each cannon weighs approximately 1.5 tonnes or 1,500kg, is fragile and highly vulnerable to external impact.

Once the cannons are transferred successfully, a proper working station and stable storing space with controlled environment will be prepared. The transfer is expected to take place in the first week of March 2018.

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