

MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT BY O. R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: NO RISK OF STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE OF ROADWAY SUPPORT PILLAR

KEMPTON PARK, 4 February 2019 – Management of O. R. Tambo International Airport confirmed today that a certified structural engineer has examined cracks on a support pillar of the elevated departures roadway at the airport and has determined that there is no risk of a structural collapse.

The inspection of support pillar number 23 was carried out last Tuesday 29 January 2019 by the structural engineer and the airport's maintenance engineering team.

This pillar is located by the domestic terminal entrance/exit on the lower road ring and provides support to the upper road ring of the airport.

The defects were classified by the structural engineer as cracking of the mortar inside the bridge expansion gap.

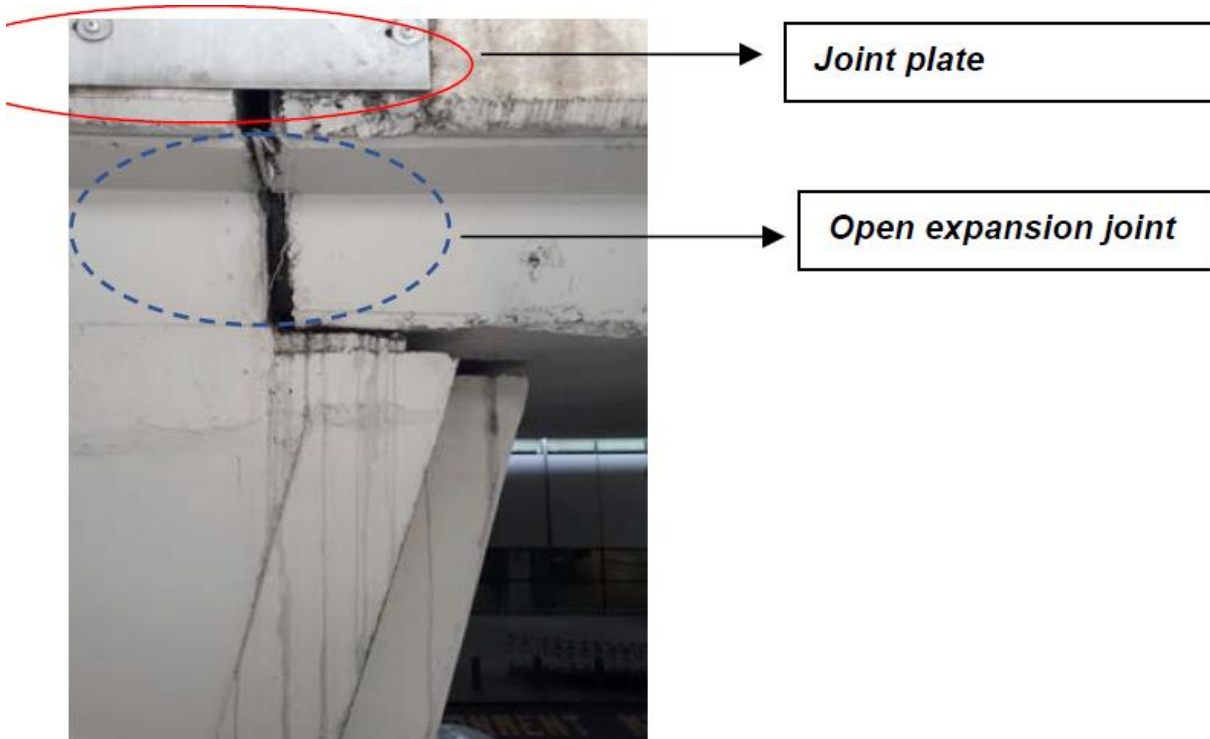


Image of pillar 23 as reported on 28 January 2019.

The structural engineer determined that the cracks were caused by the expansion and contraction movement of the bridge deck on the pillar head.

Under normal circumstances, the expansion joint gap is free of plaster. However, during construction this pillar expansion joint was plastered to neaten the appearance work area.

Adjacent pillars with open expansion gaps can be seen in the image below.



Adjacent pillar with exposed expansion joint gap.

The recommendations of the structural engineer were to:

- Remove all the loose concrete and mortar from the bridge deck pillar head;
- Finish the bridge ends with mortar; and
- Apply wet to dry epoxy to the exposed surface of the pillar head, then shutter the pier and pour in flowable concrete.

The remedial work commenced as per the engineer's recommendations. The current status of the remedial work can be seen in the image below. The maintenance team is awaiting setting of the mortar before painting.



Plastered expansion gaps on pillar 23.

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