

'Why check only after floods?'

Penang Gerakan wants answers over hillside projects

GEORGE TOWN: Penang Gerakan is questioning why instructions to map out ongoing development along the island's river basin and hill fringes were only given after the recent flash floods.

Its secretary Hng Chee Wey said he failed to understand why the instruction was only given now by Chow Kon Yeow despite being the state exco member for Local

Government, Traffic Management and Flood Mitigation for eight years.

"There's an urgent need to constantly monitor hillside development to prevent landslides and flash floods during rain," he said.

Hng was responding to a statement by Chow that the Penang Island City Council had been instructed to map out planned and ongoing development along the

river basin and hill fringes.

Chow had said that the mayor had been asked to detail all the planned and ongoing developments, to allay public concerns.

Hng also asked Chow to explain the allocation raised through drainage charges imposed on developers in the state over the years.

"What are the results from the flood mitigation projects carried out

using the allocation raised through developers?" he said.

He pointed out that in the state budgets from 2011 to 2015, RM38mil was allocated and spent on flood mitigation projects.

He also brought up reports quoting Chow as saying that since 2008, 56 hillside housing projects situated 76m above sea level had been approved by the council.