



Abd Hamid Jamaluddin (third from left) and other villagers standing at a badly eroded stretch of **Sungai Badak** in Gurun, Kedah, yesterday. Pic by Rahmat Othman

Sleepless nights over erosion

GURUN: Thirty people staying in four houses along Sungai Badak in Yan Besar, near here, are living in danger. They fear their homes will be swept away by the river any time.

Villager Abd Hamid Jamaluddin, 38, said he had written to the authorities requesting for a retaining wall to be built on badly eroded stretches along the river, but to no avail.

“My house is the closest to the river. My kitchen is almost gone after strong currents, caused by a downpour on Tuesday night, swept away the river bank.”

Abd Hamid, his wife and their three children, have lived on the river bank for almost five years.

“We have nowhere to go and no one to turn to. We are counting on the authorities to strengthen the river bank.”

Meanwhile, Gurun assemblyman Dr Leong Yong Kong, who visited the villagers yesterday, said he would discuss with the authorities, including the state Drainage and Irrigation Department, on immediate steps to prevent further erosion of the river.