

'Tackle flash floods near Sg Perak'

IPOH: A non-governmental organisation has called on the state government to tackle flash floods that hit villages near Sungai Perak.

Consumer Association of Penang (CAP) president S.M. Mohamed Idris said investigations revealed that the river had become shallow and wider due to erosion of the riverbanks.

"This was due to activities such as plantation, forest clearing and sand mining. Although the problem is long standing, no action has been taken to resolve it," he said yesterday.

Mohamed said the problem had caused losses to villagers as the eroded riverbanks were moving closer to their houses.

"Agricultural land belonging to villagers

who live near the river is eroded. We have appealed to the Land and Mines Office, Department of Irrigation and Drainage, and Perak Forestry Department to monitor the situation so that the cause of the erosion can be controlled."

He said the proposal by the state government to establish a one-stop centre to monitor Sungai Perak's flow would be ineffective.

"The state government should instead improve its monitoring and enforcement of law and regulations to curb this issue. Stringent enforcement of law is needed, not only on sand miners, but also logging companies and project developers that fail to comply with regulations."