



The site of the development project that caused a flash flood in George Town. Pic by Zulaikha Zainuzman (Inset) Bayan Lepas assemblyman **Nordin Ahmad** has expressed his dissatisfaction with the state government.

Penang folk live in fear of flash floods

DANGEROUS: Development project raises risk of landslides, say Kg Bukit residents

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RESIDENTS of Kampung Bukit here are living in fear of landslides and flash floods since the start of a hill slope development nearby.

Che Piah Che Mat, 73, and her family are afraid that the development, less than 50m away, would lead to a landslide.

She said the development caused a flash flood recently.

"We were terrified. I barred my grandchildren from leaving the house."

She said she was lucky that her house was on higher ground and escaped extensive damage.

However, other residents are not as lucky.

Solehah Abdullah, 39, said the

area was no longer safe because of the muddy water.

"I have seen many motorcyclists skidding on the road and falling," she said during a tour with Bayan Lepas assemblyman Nordin Ahmad yesterday.

Nordin said he was dissatisfied with the state government, which had not taken note of the flood issue in his constituency when he brought up the matter at the state legislative assembly sitting last month.

"I received complaints from Kampung Bukit residents that the area has been flooded because of nearby development.

"I visited the area and saw the hill slope development nearby.

"I was surprised to see that a river nearby was filled with sand and no canvas covered the hill," he said, adding that the hill slope had been covered and the river dug out yesterday morning.

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Workers were also seen building a barricade next to the river.

Nordin said he was worried as there were houses beside the development.

"If it rains heavily, the houses could be in danger.

"So, I am asking the agencies that approved the development to come down and monitor the project, as well as take action to remedy the problem."

He said the development was for 2,600 units of affordable houses and 40 shophots.

He said he had written to the Penang Island City Council and state district office, calling for action.

"The effects of any development must be looked into before approval is given."

When asked if a Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment had been carried out before the development was approved, Nordin said if it had been so, problems would not have occurred.