

Do more to save rivers, Pahang govt told

DRYING UP: State govt not doing much to solve environmental crisis, says NGO

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AN environmental group here has accused the state government of not doing enough to manage the environmental crisis involving Sungai Pahang and Sungai Tembeling, which are drying up.

Green Assembly chairman Wong Tack said the crisis was developing in the heart of the state, but little was being done to address the issue.

"It is the responsibility of the state government to solve the problem, as rivers and natural resources come under its jurisdiction.

"However, the state government doesn't seem to be paying much attention to the environmental crisis, which is becoming

worse. This is despite calls from many parties for the state government to deal with the matter," he said yesterday.

Wong said based on his observation during a recent trip to Ulu Tembeling, the drying up of the rivers was not only caused by the prolonged hot spell, but also economic activities, such as logging, mining and oil palm cultivation.

He said damage caused by excessive logging and oil palm cultivation could be seen in Ulu Tembeling, which was a water catchment area.

"The impact of such activities is worrying.

"We hope the state government will give the matter due attention in order to preserve nature for future generations," he said, adding that scattered rain in several districts last week had not improved the water levels of Sungai Pahang and Sungai Tembeling.

On Monday, Sultan of Pahang Sultan Ahmad Shah, when opening the state assembly meeting

here, had said the state government should give priority to the protection of the environment in its development programmes.



Wong Tack