## ☐ Special agency must oversee hill projects☐

Written by Administrator Friday, 20 February 2009 09:34 -

<img src="images/stories/media/starlogo2007.jpg" border="0" hspace="5" vspace="5"</p> align="left" />KUALA LUMPUR: The Federation of Malay sian Consumers Association (Fomca) has urged the Government to set up a special agency to oversee and approve all hillside developments.
<br/>Fomca president Datuk N. Marimuthu said all development on hillslopes and hillsides should in the meantime be temporarily suspended.<br/>br />He said the agency should be tasked with developing mandatory standards and enforce them to ensure that no landslide occurred. Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohamed that there would not be a blanket ban on hillside development.<br/>br />Marimuthu said the proposed agency should have at least one independent representative without any vested interest.<br/>br />He said that whatever the Government s decision, no development should be allowed near water catchment areas.<br/>br /> There should in fact be a total permanent ban on development in such areas because it is too risky as it would jeorpardise our already scarce water resources, he said.<br/>Since all development approval rests with local authorities, he suggested that they should employ enough professionals to carry out scheduled inspections of hillside development in their respective areas.<br />As for areas which have already been developed, Marimuthu suggested that developers put in place an emergency response plan to warn residents of impending landslides. Bernama