

Lake saved from quarrying

By CHRISTINA KOH

A FILM producer has approached the Malaysian Karst Society for help to make a documentary on the majestic limestone hills in the Kinta Valley, the society's executive officer Yap Ghee Hong said.

He said they had recently taken the independent producer and his film crew to shoot some preliminary footage of Tasek Cermin (Mirror Lake), a unique geological formation in Gunung Rapat, Ipoh.

"We also took him to shoot Paradise Valley and the Kek Lok Tong cave temple located in Gunung Rapat.

"If he goes ahead with the project, he will return and shoot more places in Perak," he said.

Two months ago, society president Philip C.K. Leong disclosed that quarrying activities were still being carried out near Tasek Cermin.

However, on Sept 25, nature lovers breathed a collective sigh of relief after the Raja Muda of Perak Raja Nazrin Shah directed all operations there to be stopped.

It was not the first time that Tasek Cermin had been threatened as 14 years ago the site was nearly destroyed by quarrying activities.

One of those who strongly vouched for the lake's protection was professional diving instructor Jean-Claude Chappuis, who is also passionate about underwater cave diving.

Chappuis, one of the few cave divers in Malaysia, said he had once travelled to Perak in 1997 to explore the depths of Tasek Cermin after reading an article about cave diving in Malaysia.

To get to the lake, he and a group of friends had to drive through a mining area and then into a 75m-long tunnel.

"On the other side, the view was magnificent with steep limestone hills and the lake surrounding us.

"With the deep green leaves of trees, and the sounds of birds and monkeys, I felt as if I was in paradise. For a short while, I even forgot I was there



Tasek Cermin is a site for underwater cave exploration.



to dive," he wrote in a letter to Leong.

He was impressed by the cave's limestone formations and hoped efforts would continue to preserve the lake and its limestone hills.

Chappuis wrote that Tasek Cermin was one of the rare sites in the world for underwater cave exploration.

Those who wish to know more about the society may contact Yap at 05-2542993.



Quarrying activities which defaced the limestone hills have stopped.

Cut and stick on your refrigerator

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