

**Cassa: Pakatan govt turning state into a concrete jungle**  
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GEORGE TOWN: A non-governmental organisation (NGO) has slammed the Pakatan Rakyat government for allegedly turning Penang into a developer's state.

The Consumers Association of Subang and Shah Alam (Cassa) claimed that Chief [Minister Lim Guan Eng](#) had "allowed developers to take control of the state".

Cassa president and legal adviser Jacob George claimed that the state government was only concerned with its own vision of how development should take place.

He also claimed it was disheartening that the state government had prioritised economic interest over the people's well-being.

"It's all about what Lim and the rich investors want. There are no consultations with the grassroots, laymen and NGOs.

"Penang is becoming a fortress for the rich with the poor and middle-class being alienated," he said.

Alleging that there were cracks in nearby properties and construction work that went on late into the night at "big developments" in Gurney Drive and Jalan Kelawai, Jacob said the state government had failed to act on the complaints.

"In one case, the complainant was forced to make a police report after the developer discovered her identity and she felt threatened.

"Only in Penang, people are intimidated when they raise matters of public interest," he added.

He also said that Penang was a concrete jungle because there were too many high density apartments.

Jacob gave the state government a rating of "less than four" for its governance.

He said rosy investment figures were not a good barometer of development.

"We have to look at whether the people are happy.

"When Pakatan Rakyat came to power in 2008, it promised consultations with the people and to abolish corruption, but they have not delivered.

"I raised several issues with Deputy Chief [Minister II Dr P. Ramasamy](#) two years ago, which till today remain unsolved," he said, adding that Cassa had received at least 500 complaints regarding issues in the state.

Jacob said it was unacceptable that each time a problem was raised with the state government, it would blame the previous administration.

He also called for a White Paper to be prepared on the controversial sale of land in Bayan Mutiara and for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to investigate the deal.

He said Cassa was on a nationwide roadshow to raise public awareness on issues affecting the respective states before the next general election.

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