

Relief for flood-hit towns

Muar council allows delay in tax and licence payments

STAR 25/1

MUAR: Traders and residents in the towns of Panchor, Lenga and Bukit Kepong can delay renewing their trading licences or paying their assessment taxes this year.

Muar Municipal Council president Abdul Razak Mohd Salleh said the council had decided not to impose any penalty for late payment of assessment taxes or renewal of trading licences.

He said the council had considered their problems after their homes or shops were hit by two waves of floods and that many were still struggling to start businesses afresh.

"We understand their difficulties and we allow them to take some time to pay their taxes after the Feb 28 dateline.

"For traders, we also allow them to continue using last year's licences after the March 31 dateline," he said yesterday.

Abdul Razak said the three towns located along the southern banks of Sungai Muar were badly hit by the recent floods.

He said residents and traders in other towns not affected by the recent floods would have to pay their assessment taxes and renew their business licences as scheduled.



Inundated: High-level floodwater affecting the small town of Panchor in Johor recently. Residents and traders in the town have been given time to pay assessment taxes and renew business licences this year.

A week for councils to clean up flood debris

KOTA TINGGI: All councils in the state have been given a week to clean up towns which have been ravaged by the second wave of floods.

State Housing and Local Government Committee chairman Datuk Halimah Sadique said she has directed the councils to dig into their coffers and come up with the funds first to clean up the areas.

"We cannot allow rubbish and waste to rot while waiting for funds to come in as these places can become hazardous to people's health," said Halimah. She hoped additional funds would be channelled to the councils soon.

"We need at least RM500,000 for each of the affected districts, especially Kota Tinggi, which has suffered so much destruction," she said, adding that procedures should be simplified.

She said she was satisfied with the clean-up work in her own constituency of Kota Tinggi, as the municipal council had been working round-the-clock since floodwaters receded last week.

Halimah explained that rubbish from the affected areas was being sent to 15 landfills around the state.