

'Test water quality at coastline'

MALACCA: Authorities will test the water quality at several stretches of the coastline here to determine if the sea is safe for swimming.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron said he had told local authorities to carry out an analysis on the seawater here following complaints from tourists who flocked to the beach during the weekends.

"There were complaints from visitors that they developed rashes after swimming in the sea, particularly at Pantai Puteri.

"Some complained that there was rubbish all over the beach and the toilets were dirty, especially during

long weekends," Idris said after chairing the weekly state exco meeting at Seri Negeri here yesterday.

Idris was commenting on the deteriorating state of some beaches under the Alor Gajah Municipal Council (MPAG) and Malacca Historical City Council here.

He said thousands of people visited the tourism sites and beaches, including in Pantai Puteri, Klebang and Alor Gajah, and it was important to maintain these beaches.

Idris said there was a ban on swimming at several stretches of Pantai Puteri and Pantai Klebang.

Idris also tasked MPAG to look into

the unhygienic conditions of a food court in Menggong in Alor Gajah.

"Although it is famous for its prawn cracker delicacy, the dirty kitchen and unhygienic conditions have put off tourists.

"An investigation will be carried out and, if needed, an order for temporary closure of the stall enforced until the problems are resolved."

Idris, who is also Melaka United (MU) Soccer Association president, said the state government would give RM100,000 to the family of the late MU goalkeeper, Marco Stefan Petrovski, for repatriation and burial costs.