

# Assessment tax waiver proposed

## Johor also plans relief for flood-hit traders

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**MUAR:** The state wants all local authorities to waive assessment tax collection from flood victims for the first six months of the year.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said he would make such a proposal at the state executive council meeting next week.

He said the authorities should also not collect rental from affected traders.

"The moves would at least ease some of their financial burden," he said after meeting state representatives, MPs, department heads, penghulus and village heads here yesterday.

Abdul Ghani said the state would provide funds to the authorities to

offset the shortfall in revenue.

On land tax, he said a study would be carried out to determine the damage suffered by farmers, smallholders and villagers before deciding if the tax should be waived.

He said the state might also upgrade dams and build irrigation canals in Batu Pahat to better manage water flow during a downpour.

"Batu Pahat has only one long river that flows to the sea and it cannot cope with the influx of floodwaters.

"We need to build canals to enable the water to flow out to sea, and we will also look at linking Sungai Sembrong with Sungai Sengarang."