

No plan to relocate Kota Tinggi

STAR 31/1

JOHOR BARU: The state government will not "relocate" or "rebuild" Kota Tinggi town but will take long term measures to prevent massive floods from occurring, according to Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

"The banks of Sungai Johor which flows through the town will be raised and the river bed deepened," he said yesterday.

"At the same time, the rain catchments upstream will be examined and its capacity increased."

He was commenting on a statement by Pulau Kukup National Park Ramsar site manager Harban Singh who suggested that Kota Tinggi town be relocated to avoid future floods.

Abdul Ghani said long-term plans to manage the riverbank as well as Sungai Muar's were important not only to increase agricultural produce but also to avoid floods.

He also said 86 houses in the state were destroyed, more than half in Kota Tinggi alone, while the rest were in Segamat (19) and Johor Baru (12).

He added that the floods affected 800 villages and 111 residential areas in Johor.

Meanwhile, the Johor Port Authority has donated RM50,000 for flood victims in Puteri Wangsa, Tiram, Kempas and Nusajaya.

Its chairman Abdul Halim Suleiman said the organisation hoped to ease the burden faced by the victims who needed to build their life again from scratch.

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