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Hadi-mosques

ALLOW POLITICAL CERAMAHS IN MOSQUES, SAYS HADI

KUALA LUMPUR, July 19 (Bernama) -- Political ceramahs which meet Islamic teachings should be allowed in mosques, said PAS deputy president Haji Hadi Awang today.

"Politics and religion are inseparable. During the time of Prophet Mohamed, some of his sermons are political ceramahs. Even the sermons by the Caliphs are political in nature and when they were appointed as head of state, they delivered their speeches from the mosque," he told reporters in his office in Parliament House.

He was commenting today's newspaper report where former Mufti of the Federal Territory Tan Sri Abdul Kader Talib reminded anti-government khatibs to stop using the mosque as a political platform.

Hadi, who is also Terengganu PAS commissioner, said several PAS politicians wanted to give religious talks in mosques but were not allowed.

"There seems to be a double standard here. Umno politicians are allowed but not PAS politicians, even when it is on a religious issue," he said.

Asked on the chances of the opposition front in winning the the general election, he said it was not impossible but it would not be easy.

If the Spirit of Arau, where PAS won the Arau parliamentary by-election, and the uneasiness among the people over the Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim issue persisted, the opposition would have a chance, he said.

Asked if the appointment of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah as Kelantan Umno Chief would erode the people's support to PAS, Hadi said, "The Ku Li factor is no longer a big deal. That was the factor of 50s, 60s..it is no longer relevant to 90s," he said.

On the distribution of seats among PAS, DAP and Keadilan, he said it was still being discussed.

"The distribution of seats hasn't been finalised. We are not stingy and our partners are also not greedy," he said.

Asked whether PAS would field a candidate to challenge Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kubang Pasu, Hadi said the party had several potential challengers but no decision had been made.

"Kedah PAS would decide on the person. One thing for sure, he would be someone of calibre, popular and could face the Prime Minister," he said.

Asked on the possibility that he might not be able to table a private member's bill on the issue of apostasy among Muslims in the current sitting of the Dewan Rakyat, he said he would continue to champion the issue until he was satisfied that the government had resolved the problem.

"This is my fourth attempt. It's not my intention to politicise the issue as claimed by certain parties," he said, adding that many Muslims had changed their beliefs based on information from the state religious departments.

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