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Amanat Hadi not suitable in a democracy, says Azmi

JELI, Mon. - Umno supreme council member Datuk Azmi Khalid said the amanat (decree) issued by Pas deputy president Abdul Hadi Awang could not be used in a political system which practised democracy.

He said the decree had imposed pressure on some Muslims, especially Umno members, and had led to an uneasy situation, which also affected the Malay unity.

"It is a dangerous decree and is not found in the true Islamic teachings," he said when met at the Jeli Umno complex at Bukit Nangka, near here, yesterday.

He said it was Abdul Hadi's responsibility to withdraw the decree for the sake of Islam and Malay unity.

"But the wise people, who know what is right and wrong, can differentiate whether a fatwa is issued merely to instigate the people and will not be influenced," he added.

He was commenting on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's call for Abdul Hadi to withdraw his amanat which labelled Umno members as infidels. Abdullah said Abdul Hadi had a responsibility to rectify the situation as his amanat had caused a lot of problems to Muslims.

The amanat was issued during a political campaign in Banggol Peradong, Manir, Terengganu, during the 1979 Selising by-election.

It was then documented and given the title Amanat Hadi and distributed by Pas members to discredit Umno members by labelling them as infidels.

Earlier, Azmi, who is also Rural Development Minister opened a debate on Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at the opening of the party's general assembly two months ago.

The programme was held to provide opportunities for Umno members in the division who did not make it to the assembly to also debate matters raised by Dr Mahathir in his opening address.

Also present was Jeli Umno division chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

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