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Assembly-Terengganu (Hadi)

TERENGGANU GOVT TO GO TO COURT OVER OIL ROYALTY ISSUE

KUALA TERENGGANU, Dec 18 (Bernama) -- The Terengganu Government feels it should now take legal action against the Federal Government for non-payment of oil royalties, Menteri Besar Abdul Hadi Awang said today.

Hadi said the State Government had so far been pursuing the matter through the administrative and political channels.

But it had yet to even get a response from Petronas and the Prime Minister's Department to its letter seeking clarification on the issue, he said at the State Legislative Assembly.

"After considering these matters and after going through certain channels, we now feel that the time has come to take legal action," he said when winding-up debate on the State Budget.

Hadi said the State Government had discussed the matter with the Petronas management while he himself had informal talks with the Prime Minister during the Rulers Conference in August.

He said that based on what was said at the two meetings, he was convinced that the State Government was entitled to the oil royalties.

Hadi said the PAS-led State Government had always strove to develop ties with the Federal Government and considered Terengganu a part of the federation.

However, all sides must abide by the agreements they had entered into, he added.

Hadi said the State Government had sent two letters to the Prime Minister's Department seeking a formal meeting with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"But todate we have not received any reply to the two letters," he said.

The Menteri Besar also announced a bonus of half-month salary or at least RM500 to state civil servants to be paid before Aidil Fitri.

Speaking to reporters later, Hadi expressed support for the call by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for all groups to stop confronting each other on thre rights of different communities.

Hadi, who is PAS deputy president, said inter-racial ties were very important.

He said everyone must accept the fact that Malaysians comprise various races.

-- BERNAMA

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