

Dr M: PAS has deviated from true teachings

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the refusal of PAS to retract the so-called *Amanat Haji Hadi Awang* showed that the opposition party had deviated from Islam's true teachings.

"The party has used Islam to mislead and undermine Muslims' adherence to and faith in the true teachings of the religion," the Prime Minister said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Umno will explain PAS' tactics to the masses, he said in reply to a supplementary question from Datuk Mohamad Aziz (BN - Sri Gading).

Replying to Datuk Ruhanie Sulong (BN - Parit Sulong), Dr Mahathir said defending Malay unity and rights would not give Umno political mileage.

"It will, however, profit all Malays and those who defend Malay unity," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the conditions imposed by PAS for the planned Malay unity talks were clearly not related to the

question of unity.

Yet, Umno did not reject them so that no one would have the opportunity of accusing Umno that it did not want Malay unity.

To a supplementary question by Nasharuddin Mat Isa (PAS - Yan), Dr Mahathir said the Government had not said Islamic laws could not be implemented but only maintained that enforcing such laws should be within the means of the country.

"In a country where non-Muslims form the majority, any attempt to enforce Islamic laws would create problems.

Replying to Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP - Kepong), the Prime Minister said national integration would not be jeopardised just because of talks on Malay unity or within other communities.

"It's not a problem if other races, such as the Chinese or Ibans, also want to achieve unity in their community, such as the Malay unity which

Umno advocates.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it was up to the Islamic Development Department (Jakim) to decide if Hadi's so-called decree was legal.

"It is the responsibility of Jakim. It should know what is their responsibility and role in this matter," he said after a function at the Institute of Islamic Understanding here yesterday.

"We have asked him (Hadi) to withdraw the decree but he gave a lot of reasons (not to do so)," said Abdullah.

Information Ministry Special Affairs Department director-general Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir said Hadi made his so-called decree at a time when PAS was desperate for support.

Zainal Abidin, a former director-general of Pusat Islam, said the Information Ministry would go to the ground to explain the issue to the people.