

# PAS to hold ceramahs even without permits

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PETALJING JAYA: PAS said it would continue to apply for permits for its ceramahs and would hold them even if the authorities rejected the applications.

Its information chief Azizan Abdul Razak said as long as PAS had applied for the permits, it would go ahead with the *ceramahs*.

"We will fulfill all the requirements. We have given this directive to all state PAS commissioners," he said in an interview yesterday.

Azizan said the party would continue to adhere to the laws and would not disturb the peace.

"After all, it has been provided under the constitution that Malaysians have the right to freedom of speech and peaceful-gathering. Our contention is that

an emergency had not been declared and thus *ceramahs* are allowed," he added.

Azizan was commenting on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that PAS' defiance on the ban on political ceramahs in Kelantan and Terengganu showed the party's disrespect for the law.

Dr Mahathir had said on Friday that if the party did not respect the law, then no one would respect it.

Azizan said PAS was a puzzled over the ban on political *ceramahs*.

"The *rakyat* elected us and if we are not allowed to have political *ceramahs*, then we would not be able to brief voters on our performances and issues at hand," he added.