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# Lee an alarmist, says PAS deputy chief

KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri: PAS deputy president Abdul Hadi Awang today accused Singapore-senior minister Lee Kuan Yew of being alarmist and too influenced by Western thought.

He said Lee was wrong to raise worries about PAS's potential to wrest power from Umno.

"If Lee Kuan Yew understands Islam, he should be jubilant over the resurgence of PAS. He should understand the ideology and principles adopted by Singapore, came from the West, not from China or India," he told Reuters.

"If he can study the Western economic and political theories, why can't he study Islamic teachings on economy and politics as well?"

He was responding to comments by Lee that if PAS should rule Malaysia, it could destabilise the region.

In an interview published on Singapore's ruling People's Action Party website, Lee said regional instability was the biggest threat to the island state's prosperity, and cited growing support for PAS in Malaysia as a potential worry.

Noting PAS's growing influence, Lee said: "If it continues in that way, they can win over some of the Malay and Indian parties that will present another difficult problem for the region."

Abdul Hadi said he was confident that PAS could win more seats in the next general elections due in 2004, but stopped short of saying whether the opposition front could take over the government.

He also accused Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad of trying to scare non-Muslims with the arrest of 10 alleged Muslim extremists recently.