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Hadi: Pas to define Islamic state in memo to PM

DUNGUN, Tues. - Pas will submit a memorandum to Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad soon, detailing its definition of an Islamic State.

Pas deputy president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said a committee, chaired by party president Datuk Fadzil Noor and comprising its other leaders, professionals and academicians, is currently drafting the memorandum.

Abdul Hadi said the memorandum would show the difference between Pas' model of an Islamic State and the Islamic State defined by Umno.

"The memorandum will be submitted as soon as possible," he told reporters after opening a new building belonging to Syarikat Air Terengganu at Bandar Al Muktafi Billah Shah today.

Pas has come under increasing pressure from the Federal Government and Umno leaders to clearly define its concept of an Islamic State.

The issue has been widely debated since the time Pas, in the run-up to the 1999 general election, promoted the creation of an Islamic country if it came to power.

Abdul Hadi, who is also Menteri Besar, said he and Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat were, however, not involved in the preparation of the memorandum.

He said Pas was open to the possibility of holding a dialogue with Umno on the issue once the memorandum was submitted.

"If the Barisan Nasional accepts our concept of an Islamic State, then it will become haram (not permissible in Islam) for us to oppose them."

On a different issue, Abdul Hadi said he strongly opposed the attempt by the United States to link Malaysia to a letter reportedly containing the anthrax virus.

He said this could be a ploy by the US to apply pressure on countries suspected of harbouring terrorists.

He expressed the concern that the Americans might use this to legitimise any future attacks using biological weapons against Islamic countries suspected of harbouring terrorists.

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