

Hadi: We'll go ahead despite warning

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KUALA TERENGGANU, Wed. — The Terengganu Government will implement the Syariah Criminal Offence Enactment (Takzir) (Terengganu) 2001 despite the warning issued by the Federal Government yesterday.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said today that the laws, which were effective from Aug 1, were under the State Government's jurisdiction.

Thus, it had the right to proceed with their implementation, he said.

"We are merely following procedures and we will implement the laws," said Hadi.

Takzir covers offences where the punishment is not described in the Quran and is up to the judges' discretion.

Hadi was speaking after chairing the weekly State executive council meeting at his office in Wisma Darul Iman.

He was asked to comment on the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the Federal Government would take stern action against the State if it were to proceed with the enactment.

Dr Mahathir was quoted by *Utusan Malaysia* as saying that the Federal Government would not compromise with any quarters attempting to commit an act which was against the country's laws.

Hadi further commented that the State Government was willing to provide an explanation to the Federal Government on the matter, if requested.

He also expressed his disappointment with the Islamic Understanding Institute of Malaysia (Ikim) for not giving a detailed explanation on the enactment to the Federal Government.