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'Syariah laws open to public views'

KOTA BARU: The PAS-led government in Terengganu is prepared to hear views on its proposed Syariah Criminal Enactment from all parties, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

However, he said discussions must be confined to technical matters only, such as on the question of evidence.

"It was supposed to be tabled this June but we have decided to defer it to a later date to update it after academic review on technical matters," he said yesterday after opening the 43rd PAS Youth delegates' conference at the Pusat Tarbiah Islamiah Kelantan (Putik) in Pengkalan Chepa.

Abdul Hadi, who is also PAS deputy president, was commenting on the opposition from 12 women's organisations to the move by the Terengganu government to table the bill on Hudud and Qisas (revenge crime restitution) which they said were grossly unfair to women.

He said those who opposed the proposed enactment lacked the knowledge as they did not attend a seminar to discuss the bill two weeks ago.

"We invited everyone to attend the seminar, including muftis, academicians, political parties and the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM), but none came," he said.