

Hadi: A-G will get draft Bill

STAR - 2 JUN 2002

IT IS Terengganu's intention to refer its proposed *hudud* and *qisas* legislation to the Attorney-General's Chambers, said Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Hadi Awang.

However, he said, he would have to present the draft Bill at the Terengganu State Assembly first to get state approval for the proposed law.

Hadi, the PAS deputy president, was commenting on remarks by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Terengganu should submit a draft of the Bill to the A-G's Chambers before enforcing it.

The Prime Minister said the A-G would have to examine whether the proposed law is consistent with federal laws and the concept of justice.

Hadi told *The Star* that he would table the Bill at the July sitting of the state assembly.

He said the state had lately been busy arranging seminars and getting feedback regarding the implementation of the proposed legislation.

Hadi said from feedback gathered so far, Muslims were not opposed to

the *hudud* laws being implemented.

"The objections, perhaps, had come from women with regards to Section 9 of the Bill concerning rape," he said, adding that another seminar would be held to discuss the issue and clauses said to be discriminating against women could be reviewed.

Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and a group of women's non-government organisations led by Sisters in Islam, had called for the revision of the clauses that were said to violate women's rights and cautioned Hadi not to turn the law into a "*hudud ala PAS*".

Hadi said the publicity the *hudud* laws were receiving had helped to promote the party's concept of an Islamic state. "A majority of Muslims want the *hudud* laws," he claimed.

PAS vice-president Datuk Mustaffa Ali, when asked to comment about the issue, said Terengganu has every right to enact the proposed Bill.

"Should the Federal Government not object, we will definitely implement it."

The state, he said, had in fact planned to send the draft Bill to federal authorities, adding that this was also done when Kelantan wanted to implement *Syariah* laws.

However, he said, the only problem was that it never came back to the state for implementation.

Hadi, who was at the PAS 48th assembly here, said it had been his intention all this while to submit the matter to the Federal Government.

On Friday, Dr Mahathir said Terengganu should submit a draft of its proposed Bill to the Attorney-General's Chambers.

Dr Mahathir had said that Terengganu was not concerned about justice as it was considering the matter from a procedural perspective.

Hadi said he noted Dr Mahathir's concern but said the confusion arose because the media did not highlight that the Bill was to be read together with the old law.

"At the moment, whatever problem is only confined to the technical aspects. The rest is as good as approved," he added.