

PAS win will deter investors, says Hamid

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ALOR STAR: A victory for PAS in the by-elections will send wrong signals to the world, especially to the United States, the Prime Minister's Religious Adviser said.

Tan Sri Hamid Othman said it would reflect that PAS — which he alleged had ingredients of extremism, militancy and religious exploitation — was fast gaining ground.

"We have to stop this because Malaysia is not harbouring terrorists. Many foreigners think this is linked to PAS," he said yesterday.

Hamid viewed the by-elections as a platform to test the popularity of Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who has been named as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's successor and Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, the acting PAS president.

Hamid said a PAS win would be construed as endorsing Hadi's leadership.

"This will scare away investors and the US will focus its anti-terrorism drive on Malaysia.

"This is what voters must take into consideration. We have to stop PAS before it does further damage to the country."