

Pas willing to do anything to spread lies, says Hamid

Nst 1 9 AUG 2002

PENDANG, Sun. — . The row started in a mosque in Terengganu by a Pas leader so that he could lead the Friday prayers clearly shows the party is willing to do anything to spread lies.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said it was an unIslamic act as the mosque is a place to worship and to carry out religious activities.

"Do not use the mosque to create divisions between the Muslims.

"This is mocking the religion," he said when commenting on the incident at Masjid Kampung Losong Haji Mohd Shafei in Kuala Terengganu.

During the incident, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was in the congregation.

"It is not necessary to squabble over who should lead the prayers. Religious persons would never push themselves ahead of others. Instead they would be humble and give way to others whom they feel are better than them.

"Yet what transpired showed the arrogance of certain quarters," Abdul Hamid said.

In the incident, Pas State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk

Hussain Awang insisted on becoming the imam in place of the duty imam Mohamad Nor Abu Bakar, by claiming that it was his turn.

The situation was prevented from turning ugly when Mohamad Nor gave way.

Abdul Hamid also commented on the statement by Information Ministry's Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Zainuddin Maidin that the Government should act against mosques especially in Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah which prepared their own sermons.

"Action can be taken but this depends on the respective State Religious Departments. They must monitor the situation and if it is true, the errant people can be dismissed as it is included in a provision under the respective State enactments," he said.

Zainuddin was quoted that the Government must investigate and use the Internal Security Act against those whose sermons contained seditious material.

Abdul Hamid said this when met at a thanksgiving kenduri held at Kampung Paya Palas here today, in conjunction with the win by Datuk Othman Abdul during the recent Pendang Parliamentary by-election.