

14 AUG 2002  
Hadi-Takzir  
TERENGGANU PAS GOV'T TO ENFORCE TAKZIR LAWS

KUALA TERENGGANU, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- The Terengganu PAS government will go ahead with its plans to continue to enforce the Syariah criminal offences (Takzir) enactment, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang today.

He said it is within the power of the state to enforce the enactment which came into effect on Aug 1.

"We want to enforce the Takzir laws in a democratic manner and in accordance with the administrative procedure. Terengganu is willing to face whatever consequences as a result of enforcing the laws," he told reporters after chairing the weekly meeting of the state executive council here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had warned Terengganu that the federal government would take action if it insisted on enforcing the laws.

Commenting on Dr Mahathir's warning, Abdul Hadi said Dr Mahathir did not understand what the enactment was all about.

Abdul Hadi said the enactment was similar to the Syariah laws used by other states in the federation and thus could not be against the Federal Constitution.

In this respect, he regretted that the Institute of Islamic Understanding (IKIM) had not played its role in explaining the enactment to the federal government.

The enactment among others prohibits a Muslim from branding a fellow Muslim as "kafir", an offence which carries a fine of up to RM5,000 or imprisonment of up to three years or both.

The Terengganu police have refused to help the state government enforce the laws.

-- BERNAMA  
MRA SN ABG