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Opposition leaders attack BN leadership and policies

OPPOSITION leaders wasted no time in hurling attacks on the country's leadership and Government policies in two separate ceramah in the Anak Bukit state and Pendang parliamentary constituencies on Wednesday night.

As expected, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad topped the Pas' "hit list".

The Umno president's intention to resign from all party and government posts was "attacked" relentlessly by Kuala Kedah Member of Parliament Mohamed Sabu.

Mohamed Sabu who is also a Pas central committee member used his oratory skills to convince the crowd, gathered at the Parti Keadilan Nasional's operation centre at the junction of Taman Aman.

He said Dr Mahathir should not wait for 16 months to resign. Without backing his claims, he alleged investors were shying away because they were not sure who was the real Prime Minister.

"Is it Dr Mahathir or Pak Lah (Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi)," he said.

About 50 kilometres away and before a large crowd at Felda Sungai Tiang, an Umno stronghold, acting Pas President Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang defended the Pas hudud.

He insisted that the Syariah Criminal Laws (Hudud and Qisas) passed by the Terengganu State Legislative Assembly on Monday had the support of most Muslims in the country.

Abdul Hadi said Malays in general could accept the laws despite strong opposition by some Muslims representing certain groups.

"Even non-Muslims will accept hudud when they fully understand the laws," he said.

At the same forum, Pas Youth chief Mahfuz Omar criticised the State Government's Kedah Maju 2010 development plan, alleging the 10-year plan which Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak was promoting was hastily done and without a proper study.

"Development of an industrial area in Pendang has been included in the plan but the prospect of the industrial growth in the district is uncertain," said Mahfuz who is also Pokok Sena MP.

Keadilan deputy Youth chief Saifuddin Nasution Ismail also jumped on the bandwagon - he questioned the policy to revert to using English for Mathematics and Science subjects in schools next year.

He likened the move to "changing of clothes" which, he said, was not proper as the new policy would affect the general public.

Among the posters that have been put up are those directly attacking Puteri Umno pasted on tree trunks along both sides of the road in Pendang town.

The posters which warned parents not to allow their children to get close to Puteri Umno, featured cuttings of a suspended weekly tabloid reports which had alleged the movement's pro-tem chief Azalina Othman Said of being a lesbian.