

01 JUN 2002

Hadi-Hudud

TERENGGANU OFFERS HUDUD BILL FOR SCRUTINY BY AG

KOTA BAHARU, June 1 (Bernama) -- The Terengganu government is willing to submit the Syariah Criminal Bill (Hudud and Qisas) for scrutiny by the Attorney-General once it has passed through all the preliminary procedures.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said the Bill's draft would be tabled in the State Legislative Assembly early July after which the Terengganu government would hand it over to the federal government for approval.

"For now, we are in the midst of getting feedback from various quarters like the public, NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and political parties," he told reporters here today.

He was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the Terengganu government should allow the draft of the Bill to be studied by the Attorney-General's Office to ensure its compatibility with Islamic justice.

Abdul Hadi said the feedback received so far was "good and positive", indicating that the proposed Bill, on the principle, was accepted by all parties.

"The comments (we) received so far only disputed technical aspects like witnesses and rape (cases). This cropped out as there is no clarity in these issues," he said.

He said within the next few days, the state government would be meeting many parties including representatives from Sisters In Islam and NGOs over clarifications on several areas in the draft Bill.

Abdul Hadi said the state government was also willing to meet the federal government and Umno leaders to discuss and clarify issues related to the draft.

-- BERNAMA

RAR ZUL