

PM: Hadi has no right to call Umno ulama devils

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JITRA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has questioned the right of PAS acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang to describe Umno's religious leaders as *syaitan bisu* (silent devils).

"What is his right to say that Umno religious leaders are devils? Is he Allah? Does he know right from wrong? He cannot make such accusations."

"Please tell him to provide clarifications about these people being devils," he said after meeting Barisan Nasional leaders in Kubang Pasu here.

The Prime Minister said action could be taken, if there was evidence, against anyone who threatened the country's peace by making dubious allegations.

He was commenting on a statement by Hadi on Saturday that the

term *syaitan bisu* he used at the Terengganu state assembly last week was directed at Umno religious leaders and not the police.

Dr Mahathir said everybody knew that PAS spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat was working with the devil.

"Everyone knows that Nik Aziz is a friend of the devil. Otherwise, why would he say that Allah uttered foul language and that Allah was a thug? By becoming a friend to the devil, then only would he say such things," he said in reference to past remarks made by Nik Aziz.

However, Dr Mahathir said the Opposition was provoking the Government to take action so they could fish for sympathy from the people.

Asked about his meeting with

Kubang Pasu Barisan members, Dr Mahathir said he urged them to support whoever was the next candidate here.

"The general election is about forming a government. It is not about one candidate. One candidate including me cannot win the elections. We can only form a government if Barisan wins."

Earlier, when addressing a gathering at SK Sri Banaj in Wang Tepus near here, Dr Mahathir said it was regretful that a small group of people in Malaysia was uneasy to see the country in peace.

These people had learnt how to make bombs, kill people and rob banks, he said, referring to news reports about the US government adding the names of 10 Malaysians to a list of suspected terrorists.

Dr Mahathir said these people liked

to create chaos for their own interests, purportedly to set up an Islamic state by overthrowing the Government through violence.

"If they want to form the Government, they can contest in the general election.

"But they know the *rakyat* will not support terrorists," he said.

On the outcome of the 2003/2004 student body elections in public universities, Dr Mahathir warned that the Government would withdraw the scholarships of the winners at Universiti Malaya if they did not get good results in their examinations due to their involvement in politics.

It was reported that groups which supported the Government had won in 15 out of the 17 universities except Universiti Malaya and the International Islamic University.