

No change in Constitution if PAS wins polls

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BY K. SUTHAKAR

KUALA BERANG: PAS will retain the existing Federal Constitution if it emerges victorious in the next general election, party president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said.

It would, however, give a new definition to Islam, which is stated in the Federal Constitution as the religion of the federation.

He said Islam would be defined according to what was stated in the Quran and as *addeen* (way of life).

"It would not be viewed as a religion as stated by the Reid Commission (which drew up the Federal Constitution).

"What the present Government is doing now is to interpret Islam in the manner defined by western legal experts and not Islam as defined by the religion," he told newsmen yesterday after opening the 700th commemoration celebration of

the Batu Bersurat Terengganu which was discovered in Kampung Buloh here in 1887.

Inscribed on the stone is the proclamation of Islamic laws meant for the sultan and the people of Terengganu in the 14th century.

Hadi, who is Terengganu Menteri Besar, was commenting on reports that PAS would set up an Islamic administration in states in which it emerges victorious in the next general election.

There was speculation it would continue with the existing Federal Constitution if it wrests the Federal Government, which indicated it was probably using two strategies to secure votes.

Commenting on this, Hadi said PAS has to take into account the reality of Malaysian plural society which was "God-given to the country".

He said even the first Islamic country in the world (in

Medinah) comprised a plural society.

"Nabi Muhammad deployed one strategy to unite all Muslims, another strategy in dealing with the plural society and a third strategy to deal with the outside people.

"The different strategies are not a new thing and only those who are blind about Islamic history would view it as strange," he said.

On the recent statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that political parties, especially the opposition, were not yet mature enough to gather at open rallies without causing disturbances, Hadi claimed that the Barisan Nasional feared the people's overwhelming response to opposition rallies.

Hadi urged the police to be transparent when vetting applications from opposition parties to hold rallies.