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Islamic state still PAS's goal, says Hadi

KUALA TERENGGANU: PAS will stick to its plan to set up an Islamic state by implementing the Syariah (Hudud and Qisas) Criminal Laws Enactment in states under its rule, PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said yesterday.

He said the agenda for an Islamic state has been the basis of the party's struggle and that those who raised the issue for political mileage do not understand the definition of Islam.

Hadi, who is the Terengganu menteri besar, said PAS vice-president Datuk Mustafa Ali's statement in a interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation's *Hardtalk* programme was an

overall view on Islam.

"When (we) say Islam, it encompasses all aspects of Islamic teachings. The BBC reporter probably understood Islam as the Westerners do," he said after chairing the state executive council meeting here.

He was asked to comment on Mustafa's interview with *Hardtalk* host Tim Sebastian in Kuala Lumpur last week where Mustafa said an Islamic state was not an objective in PAS's constitution. Mustafa also said the media had used the term Islamic state to scare non-Muslims.

His statement appeared to contradict the party's stand as Hadi has repeatedly

said PAS would continue in its struggle for an Islamic state and implement hudud laws in states it controls.

Hadi said Mustafa's statement did not contradict the party's stand because the latter did not mention Islam in detail.

The explanation was misinterpreted by Sebastian because he did not understand Islamic teachings and viewed the concept of an Islamic state in a Western perspective, Hadi said.

In **Langkawi**, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said PAS was inconsistent in its stand for an Islamic state because it was not going to implement it but was only fishing for votes.