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Hadi predicts 'clean sweep' in Terengganu

KUALA TERENGGANU, Wed. - Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang today said his party would make a "clean sweep" of all state and parliamentary seats in Terengganu and deny the Barisan Nasional even "a single seat".

Although he did not make the same prediction on the party's chances of controlling the Federal Government, he made it clear that if Pas was in power, it would amend the Constitution to ensure only a Muslim could be Prime Minister.

Hadi told a news conference that he was waiting to see who the BN candidates were.

"Then we can be sure of whether it is going to be a landslide victory," he said.

"I won't be the least bit worried even if the BN fields candidates with religious credentials," added Hadi, who is Terengganu Menteri Besar.

Pas, he said, would retain 95 per cent of the incumbents and only replace the "aged and sick".

Hadi, who has tried to portray himself and his party as the foremost authorities on Islam, said he would spend the campaign period traversing the country "to talk on Islam".

Today, he again ridiculed Umno leaders, in particular Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, on their Islamic credentials.

His previous criticism of Abdullah, who is known for his Islamic acumen and moderate stance, has backfired, with many Islamic religious officials, unions and ordinary people criticising him for being "petty, callous and unIslamic".

This has not deterred Hadi, who repeated his personal attacks on Abdullah.

Hadi said today that he wanted the BN to declare that it would amend the Constitution to make Islamic laws supreme in the country.

"It is clear that BN is pretending to be Islamic. We want an official declaration by the Prime Minister that the Federal Government will amend the Constitution to make Islam the supreme law in the country," he said.

He claimed that former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, while declaring Malaysia an Islamic nation, failed to amend the Constitution to ensure that future Prime Ministers are Muslim.