

06/09/2003

PM: Hadi's outburst against police unbecoming of a State leader

Firdaus Abdullah

CYBERJAYA, Fri. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's outburst against the police force as unbecoming of a State leader.

The Prime Minister said Hadi's description of the police as "silent devils" (syaitan senyap) at the Terengganu State Assembly was un-called-for and reflected the Pas acting president's arrogance.

"This is very unbecoming of a Menteri Besar.

"I think it would be very difficult for the police to carry out their duties effectively if they are continuously ridiculed like this... this is not the first time he is saying negative things about the police," Dr Mahathir told the New Straits Times after his one-on-one meeting with the Multimedia Super Corridor's International Advisory Panel members.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on Hadi's latest criticism of the force.

The Opposition leader made the remarks on Wednesday when venting his frustration following the police's refusal to help enforce hudud in the State.

Hadi had described the police's attitude as promoting and condoning vice.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Hadi's views were inconsiderate, especially coming from a Muslim leader.

"He should not have uttered such derogatory words against the police. Not even a single police personnel could accept such name-calling," Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said on the sidelines of the Seventh Multimedia Super Corridor International Advisory Panel meeting here.

On whether the remarks were seditious and action should be taken against the Menteri Besar, Abdullah said: "What he said is obvious, there is nothing to investigate anymore. It is up to the police to decide on the next course of action."

On Hadi's contention that the police were not helping to enforce the hudud enacted by Pas, Abdullah said the police could not do so as they were bound by provisions under the Federal Constitution which only recognised the Penal Code.

"The AttorneyGeneral does not permit the police to enforce the hudud, so they (police) cannot be held responsible for not co-operating with Hadi," he said.