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'Hadi's praise for PM not enough'

Rosli Zakaria

KUALA TERENGGANU, Tues. - Pas acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang praising Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's foreign policy is not enough to show that he is serious about uniting Malays.

Terengganu Umno liaison deputy chief Datuk Idris Jusoh said today that while it was good that Hadi had recognised the efforts of the Prime Minister and showed more openness, he had yet to respond to a more important question.

"Hadi should retract the fatwa (religious decree) labelling Umno members as infidels," he said in a telephone interview.

"If he realises that the fatwa was wrong, he should not wait to retract it.

"Only then would efforts to unite the Malays, who are Muslims, would bear fruit."

Idris was asked to comment on the interview with Hadi by a team of journalists led by New Straits Times Group Editor-in-Chief Tan Sri Abdullah Ahmad in the New Sunday Times and Berita Minggu.

Idris said he felt that Hadi was trying to project a moderate and liberal image in the interview.

"Again, to prove that he has changed to a moderate, he needs to retract the fatwa. Otherwise, he will remain a radical."

Idris said Pas' promise of transparency on land matters, especially on allocation and ownership approval, had not been kept.

"Pas had promised that all land and the names of people to be given land would be displayed on public notice boards at the land offices.

"This has not been done.

"If Pas is serious about its manifesto, this should be made a policy and it should be approved by the executive committee.

"Similarly, the awarding of logging concessions has not been transparent.

"The people want to know who have been awarded the concessions and where the money has gone to."

He said that Hadi had also failed to express his opinion on the economy or how Pas would manage the economy if it forms the Federal Government.

"Personally speaking, I don't think he has much knowledge on other things."