

Hadi: Chin Peng is dead?

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Since yesterday, news organisations have been churning out a litany of reports on the death of former Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) secretary-general Chin Peng in Thailand.

A debate has also been raging on whether his ashes could be brought back to his hometown of Sitiawan in Perak, which prompted various top politicians, including Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, to lend their views.

However, PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang appeared to be in the dark.

When quizzed on the matter during a press conference this evening, the opposition leader stunned reporters with his puzzled look.

Turning to PAS vice-president Mahfuz Omar, who was seated next to him, Hadi asked: "He has died?"

However, he refused to comment on whether Chin Peng's ashes could be brought back.

"We are not the government, so I don't want to give an opinion," he said.

When pressed further, he said he was "not yet" forming the government.

"We let the government make the decision. We have not formed the government yet. Even if I say something, it's not like it can be implemented," he said.

PAS central committee member Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad has previously said that Chin Peng's remains should be allowed to be brought back into Malaysia.

The government is currently refusing Chin Peng's remains to enter Malaysia, and are claiming that the former communist leader had never applied for citizenship in the country.

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