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Hadi: The good in NEP stays

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KUALA LUMPUR: Pas will not scrap the New Economic Policy, its president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said.

"Only the negative aspects, such as corruption and cronyism, will be eliminated. We must help the poor Malays but the non-Malays won't be left out," he said at Pas headquarters here yesterday.

Commenting on the DAP's stand in Penang to do away with the NEP, Hadi said Pas agreed with the affirmative action policy and pledged to continue it, stressing its welfare aspects.

Following his swearing-in on Tuesday, Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng vowed to run his administration "free of the NEP".

"We believe the weaknesses in the present economic system can be resolved through the welfare state. We are not going to be bound by any policy but anything which is good will stay," Abdul Hadi said, adding that development projects and initiatives such as Visit Kedah Year, were acceptable to the incoming Pas state government.

"I only hope the federal government will not stop investors from coming to



Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang says Pas never had an official relationship with the DAP

the states (ruled by Pas)."

Hadi said his statement on the introduction of hudud had been "played up by the media".

"Have you seen anyone getting amputated in Kelantan or Terengganu so far? I hope RTM and TV3 invite me for a televised dialogue about hudud."

On whether Parti Keadilan Rakyat was acting as a middleman between Pas and the DAP, Hadi said PKR was only "representing" the party in coalition talks.

"We have never had an official relationship with the DAP. But I am ready to co-operate with anyone."

Abdul Hadi said Pas would continue to work with PKR and DAP in the five states controlled by the opposition alliance.

He also dismissed rumours that Barisan Nasional was courting Pas to join it.