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KUALA LUMPUR: PAS will continue to uphold the positive features in the New Economic Policy (NEP) which coincides with its manifesto which promotes the concept of a welfare state.

Its president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said the NEP has many positive aspects which could be implemented, such as protecting disadvantaged Malays, but it must not be at the expense of the non-Malays.

“One of the good aspects of the NEP is to protect the Malays who are poor and left behind, but not by taking away the non-Malays’

rights. Some of the non-Malays also need to be protected.

“We cannot take from the non-Muslims to protect the Muslims. This is not allowed in Islam,” he said at the party headquarters yesterday, when asked about the DAP-administered Penang’s intention to do away with the NEP.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the PAS Central Working Committee meeting, Abdul

Hadi said whatever that is good in the NEP will continue to be implemented.

Asked whether PAS disagreed with Penang’s new Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, Hadi said: “DAP is against corruption. They are asking the state executive councillors to declare their assets. We are agreeable to that.”

Asked about Lim’s agenda to restore local government elections,

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he said: “We will wait and see. That has to be studied by legal experts as it touches on the Federal Constitution.”

On whether PAS planned to implement an open tender system for all government contracts, he said: “It is the same with us. That is what the Kelantan state government has been doing.”

Asked about talks that the BN was courting the party, he said: “As

the Inspector-General of Police has said, do not believe in rumours. Nobody from BN approached me or the party. We don’t have time for that.

“Now is the time to strengthen the states. When this is resolved, we can work with BN on the kind of cooperation it could have with the states that we govern. We don’t have the interest (to discuss with BN) so far,” he said.

PAS will uphold the good in NEP