

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	3/1/2013

Pas 'amanat' that splits the Malays

MST-3/1/2013

CLEAR THE AIR: Hadi Awang must explain how he would change the Constitution

FROM its inception, the leaders of the Pan Malayan Islamic Party, now known as Parti Islam SeMalaysia (Pas), in their quest for support condemned Umno members as infidels (*kafir*) for cooperating with non-Muslims. This was followed in April 1981 by (Abdul) Hadi Awang's statement that Umno members are *kafir* (infidels) because Umno perpetuates the constitution of the colonialist, perpetuates the rules and regulations of the infidels, perpetuates the rules of the pre-Islamic Arabs, the Jahiliah.

Because of these things, the struggles of Pas constitute a *jihad* (holy struggle), their speeches are *jihad* , their donations (to Pas) are *jihad* . Because of their struggle (war) against these people (Umno members), if they die, they become *syahid* (Islamic martyrs), they die in Islam. He said they did not have to be a Jew, did not have to be a Christian, did not have to be Hindu or Buddhist, they became infidels if they separated politics from religion.

The effect of these two pronouncements is far more than is generally known. They have resulted in a deep split among the Malay Muslims, who are all Sunnis and followers of the same imam, Imam Shafie. Usually the splits within the Muslim community are because of the interpretations and teachings of different imam. Thus, the Sunnis and Shias are so deeply divided that they regarded each other as non-Muslims. As a result, they have been fighting and killing each other for more than a thousand years.

There was no such division among Malay Muslims until Pas was formed. Immediately, Pas declared that those who did not join it were infidels (*kafir*). But the most potent cause of the split among Malay Sunnis is the pronouncement of Hadi Awang, presently the president of Pas. His diatribe against Umno and condemnation of Umno Malays as *kafir* (apostates or infidels) have resulted in the rejection of Pas members of Umno imam during prayers. They would hold separate prayers behind their own imam.

Pas members even build their own mosques, refuse to eat meat slaughtered by Umno supporters, reject the validity of marriages officiated by Umno kadi and bury their dead in sep-

arate burial grounds.

Members of the same family who are Umno followers are shunned by those who support Pas.

In fact, Pas members truly believe that the three million Umno members, their families and supporters are not Muslims. They are all *kafir* or infidels and apostates.

Malays are not usually violent but there have been deaths such as those in Memali, where police personnel and Pas supporters lost their lives. Because we don't have the regular violence and killings as in other Muslim countries, where the Muslims are divided into Shias and Sunnis, the split and animosities between the Malay Muslims are not so noticeable. It is only during elections that this split becomes a factor.

Pas members have become so fanatical in their support for the party that even when the party and its leaders breach their own injunctions, they continue their blind support of the party. Thus, after saying that Umno is *kafir* because it works with *kafir*, now that Pas has done exactly the same, Pas members continue to support their party. Their fanaticism seems to blind them to the hypocrisy of their leaders.

→ Turn to Page 17



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the fourth prime minister of Malaysia

Muslims and non-Muslims want answers from Pas

→ From Page 14

It is perhaps worthwhile to examine the pronouncements of Hadi Awang because most Pas members look up to him as infallible and sinless (*ma'asum*). What indeed did Hadi mean when he made his *amanat* in 1981?

He said Pas was opposed to Umno because it had perpetuated the constitution of the colonialist. Which part of the constitution was he referring to?

The constitution adopted by Malaysia upon independence provides for:

- A CONSTITUTIONAL** monarchy;
- A PARLIAMENT** elected by the people;
- AN EXECUTIVE** prime minister and

cabinet from the party or representatives who have the support of the majority in Parliament;

THE separation of powers between the executive, the legislative and the judiciary;

THE rule of law and equality before the law;

TRIALS conducted by the courts, where the procedures include evidence by witnesses and also circumstantial evidence;

THE monarch to appoint the prime minister or chief minister based on the support of the elected legislators but may not dismiss the government so formed unless a vote of non-confidence has been passed against the government concerned;

FREEDOM to believe in and practise other religions; and,

NO imposition of Islamic law on non-Muslims.

There are elements of the Western non-Muslim concepts of governance in all these and more. If Pas considers their acceptance make Umno *kafir*, what would Pas replace them with? Would Pas want the:

CONSTITUTIONAL monarch to be replaced with an absolute monarch?;

WOULD Pas wish to replace an elected Parliament with a Dewan made of nominees of the absolute ruler?;

WOULD Pas accept a prime minister and his cabinet appointed by the monarch even if they are not supported by the majority of the members of the Dewan?;

WOULD the separation of powers

between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary be abolished?;

SHOULD there be no rule of law?;

SHOULD trials be conducted without the need for duly appointed judges in legally constituted courts?;

SHOULD courts only find an accused person guilty if there are four witnesses of high standing to vouch for the facts of the crime?;

SHOULD constitutional evidence such as DNA and thumbprints be rejected?; and,

SHOULD the monarch be given the power to appoint and dismiss the government at his whim and fancy?

To clear the air and to give the religious basis for the pronouncement of Hadi Awang that the constitution is colonial, he must explain how the Malaysian Constitution has

to be changed so as not to be a perpetuation of the colonial constitution.

I suspect he would answer that I am not qualified to question him as I am not a religious scholar. But I would be living under Hadi's constitution if his Pas adorers were to give him victory in the 13th general election. As a citizen, I must know what I would be in for, even if DAP and its supporters don't want to know. And, I believe many citizens — Muslims and non-Muslims — would want to know.

DAP may believe that they would be able to handle Hadi and his *amanat* , but the DAP struggle to do this will destabilise the country, preventing it from developing and growing.