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'Decision on hudud up to Najib'

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Whether Umno supports the Bill depends on its president

THE PAS Private Member's Bill to amend syariah laws continues to attract attention among lawmakers in Parliament.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the Umno president would decide if its MPs would support it.

"The Bill is currently Number Seven in the Order Paper and whatever decision made (by Parliament) is the Speaker's jurisdiction.

"Whether or not Umno supports it, it is up to the Prime Minister and it would depend on the situation," he told reporters at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

Dr Ahmad Zahid was asked on Umno's stand on PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's Bill to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965.

Abdul Hadi had successfully tabled his Bill at the last Parliament meeting on May 26 but opted to postpone debating it to the present meeting, which began on Monday.

However, the Bill, which was listed as item Number Four in the



Ask and answer: Dr Ahmad Zahid answering questions during the newly introduced 'Minister's Question Time' at Parliament.

Order Paper on Monday, did not come up for debate as government matters took priority.

PAS secretary-general Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan viewed the changes as an upgrade in the Order Paper.

"The Parliament meeting still has a long way to go. We are confident it will be debated," he said.

PAS Youth chief Nik Abduh Nik Aziz urged the Government to allow

the Bill to be debated.

"We urge the Government to allow it to be tabled for debate as the people have been waiting months for it," he said.

Meanwhile, Parti Amanah Negara's Wanita chief Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud claimed that PAS managed to "pull some strings" in getting the Bill tabled during the Parliament meeting in May, although it was listed as the second

last item on the Order Paper.

Dr Siti, who is Kota Raja MP, said Amanah was pessimistic that its proposed alternative Bill to amend syariah law would see the light of day.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

