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COOPERATION

Dr M only concerned with his position, says Pas president

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ALOR STAR: Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang has taken a swipe at Parti Amanah Negara (PAN) and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for widening the split among Malays.

Hadi said the action by former Pas leaders to form PAN and Dr Mahathir's move to set up Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia dealt a huge blow to the agenda to uphold Islamic teachings in the country.

Hadi reminded party members that Pas could not form the Federal Government on its own strength.

"Together with DAP and PKR through *tahaluf siyasi* (political cooperation) in (the then) Pakatan Rakyat, we won 89 parliamentary seats against Barisan Nasional's 132 in the last general election.

"But, do you notice that Pas only won 21, PKR 30 and DAP 38? The fact is, only 39 of the 89 seats were represented by Muslim members of par-

liament while the rest is held by non-Muslims," he was quoted as saying by Harakahdaily.net, the party's news portal, in a special presidential address in Kota Sarang Semut here on Saturday night.

Hadi said there was a suggestion to call for a vote of no-confidence to change the government by securing the support of 30 non-Muslim members of parliament from BN but there would only be 39 Muslim MPs and 80 non-Muslim MPs.

He said the imbalance in the opposition set-up had forced Pas to review its cooperation in Pakatan then.

"Sadly, our partners in Pakatan had shown their true colours by opposing Pas's move to strengthen Syariah law (by tabling a motion to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965 (Act 355).

"This is despite our (Pakatan's)

agreement not to question any partner party's policy."

He said the motion to amend Act 355 might not be passed in Parliament as the combined votes of MPs from Pas and Umno would be short from the required 112 votes.

He claimed that Dr Mahathir was only concerned with his position without consideration for upholding Islam.

Hadi blamed Dr Mahathir for allegedly creating a mixture of Muslim and non-Muslim voters to retain BN power when he was prime minister then.

"For example, he (Dr Mahathir) had put to 100,000 voters in one parliament constituency in Kedah, Terengganu, Kelantan and northern Perak as compared with just about 20,000 in Johor and other states to prevent Pas from winning the seats," he said.