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'CONFUSED'

# DR M: HADI'S PAS WEAKER

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However, he says Hadi has 'more charisma'

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday claimed that Pas had become a weak party under the leadership of Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman, said Pas had lost its direction and was unable to make a firm stand on important issues under Hadi.

However, Dr Mahathir admitted that Hadi had "more charisma" compared to the previous Pas leaders.

"The way I see it, Hadi has more charisma than the late (Datuk) Fadzil Noor, (Datuk) Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and (Tan Sri) Dr



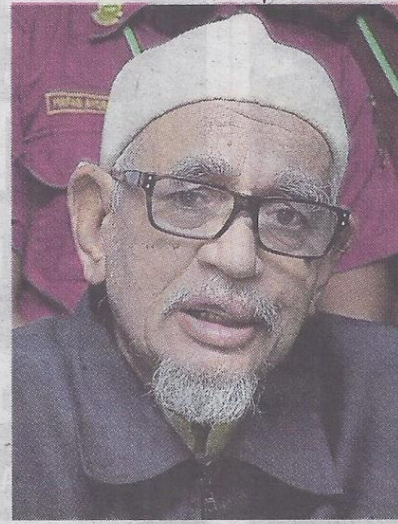
*Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad*

Mohd Asri Muda.

"People are making all sorts of allegations against him (Hadi), but he is incapable of responding to the accusations.

"I sense that that Pas is pretty much confused... sometimes it seems that it is keen to join us (Pakatan Harapan) but some other times they are not.

"It (Pas) has asked us to organ-



*Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang*

ise a joint-meeting but when we set the date, they said they did not ask for it, so there is no proper coordination in Pas," he said after attending a meeting between PPBM and Pakatan Harapan leaders in Kedah at the party's headquarters in Bandar Stargate here.

Present were his son and PPBM deputy chairman Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir and state

Pakatan Harapan leaders.

Dr Mahathir denied that he was the reason for the failure to hold talks between Pas and PPBM on a possible cooperation in the next general election.

In **Kota Barú**, Kelantan, Pas secretary-general Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan hinted yesterday that several decisions made by Dr Mahathir could have led to the collapse of the talks.

Takiyuddin was reported as hinting that Dr Mahathir had the power to make party decisions despite being PPBM chairman.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir said the proposed debate between him, and Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz should be held in Shah Alam, Selangor, instead of Perak.

Dr Mahathir said the debate should be held indoor so that the organiser would not need to apply for a police permit.

The debate was initially scheduled to be held in Perak but police did not grant a permit for the event.