

# Attacks indicate demand for new ideas, says analyst

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Open attacks against Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's stature as Pas president only shows that changes in the party structure are in demand, says a prominent political analyst.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Professor Datuk Dr Mohammad Agus Yusoff noted that the ulama faction in Pas, as opposed to the "progressive" Erdogan, was not too keen to include new blood and approaches as part of the party's struggles.

Agus alluded that the ulama was more "elitist" in nature, and found it difficult to come to terms with the current political landscape.

"It is not that the Erdogan is pushing away the ulama. Of course, the setup in Pas requires the presence of ulama. But what is being demanded is for new ideas to be included in charting the party's direction."

While the ulama, including the party's newly-appointed Datuk Dr Haron Din, had openly endorsed Hadi to be retained as president, Agus believed that a contest for the top post should be seen as a healthy development for Pas.

Party polls are scheduled to take

place in June, with party divisions nationwide currently holding meetings to nominate candidates for various posts.

"It is some sort of a political mobility in the party. If there is no change, Pas stands to be stagnant in its political approach and lose its clout.

"I do not think that Hadi's position will be perturbed, although I do believe that he will face a contender for his post. Whatever it is, with the party polls being three months away, things can change."

Many of the younger Pas leaders were adamant that the party presidency should be open for contest, and lambasted the ulama for saying that it should be otherwise.

The party polls in June are expected to be a hotbed for clashes of opinions between the factions.

Pas vice-president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim

Tuan Man said such an atmosphere could not be avoided, especially when party elections were taking place.

"It is difficult to comment on the party's internal issues. God-willing, the muktamar and the party polls will be carried out as smoothly as possible."



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**Professor Datuk Dr Mohammad Agus Yusoff**