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Mahathir-Kelantan

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12⁹¹ (Bernama) — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Umno does not have anything to do with and will not interfere in the latest political development in Kelantan.

+We (Umno) feel that we have nothing to do with what happens in Kelantan because we are not in power in Kelantan,+ the Umno president told reporters after chairing a party Supreme Council meeting here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, repeating that Umno would not interfere in Kelantan, said it was up to the government led by PAS to rule the state.

In the latest development in Kelantan, the component parties of the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah appeared to be at odds with each other, with Semangat 46 leaders questioning PAS' sincerity and fairness in the distribution of power and posts in the state.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the development in Kelantan was, however, discussed at today's meeting together with the country's overall political development. — more

♥12/01/16-17MST

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Replying to questions on the Kelantan government's intention to implement +hudud+ laws in the state and its willingness to go to court to determine its right to implement such laws, the prime minister said it was its prerogative to go to court.

He said the Federal government would not stop the Kelantan PAS government from going to court to determine its powers.

+If they go to court, we will explain the constitution ... what can and cannot be done,+ he added.

He said it would then be up to the judge to decide whether it (the Kelantan government) could implement punishment by beheading and cutting off people's hands and whether the punishment was confined to Muslims only.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: +We abide by the laws.+ — more

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He explained, however, that the hudud law covered a wider field and was not confined to punishment by chopping off hands.

He said that even without getting a court order and without contravening the Federal Constitution the Kelantan government had certain jurisdiction which it could enforce to implement certain matters.

+For example the lottery, if they do not agree with the lottery they cannot withdraw the lottery licence but they can close premises selling the lottery tickets, which is within the jurisdiction of the local government.

+If they do not agree with riba (the system of interest), they have the power to close or not to license such institutions and and so also with the sale of liquor, the question of aurat (covering the body), football attire for men and for women All these are within their jurisdiction,+ he added.

Asked about the appointment of the Kelantan Umno liaison chief, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the party had not decided on it.

He said, however, that for dealings with the state government, it had been decided that Senator Haji Annuar Musa would represent the Federal government. — Bernama

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