

Dr Mahathir to Aziz: Try hudud laws now

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By Farush Khan and Zulkifli Othman

JOHOR BARU, Thurs. — The Pas-led Kelantan Government should implement hudud laws immediately in the State if it is serious about the matter, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the Federal Government would not obstruct or prevent the State Government from proceeding with its plans.

However, it doubted Menteri Besar Nik Aziz Nik Mat's sincerity.

"If Nik Aziz feels that cutting off people's hands would make him a more complete Muslim, the Federal Government will not stop him implementing the hudud laws. However, we do feel that it is not appropriate in this day and age because of the unique situation in our country and the many other Islamic alternatives to the hudud laws," he told a meeting of Johor Umno leaders here.

"I want to know which Pas members are willing to cut off another person's hand."

Mayh...
...wants to do it but...
...know it is not easy to do so."

...speaking to reporters...
...opening the polypropylene plant of the Titan Himont Polymers in Pasir

Gudang, about 40km from here, Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government was prepared to amend the Constitution to allow the Kelantan Government to implement the hudud laws.

He said the Federal Government would do this if necessary to show that it was not trying to stop Kelantan from implementing the laws.

"All this while, they have been saying with sarcasm that the Federal Government is an obstacle for them to implement the laws and that we are not so Islamic.

"Now we are not going to stop them. If they wish, they can implement such laws in Kelantan."

Asked whether the proposed amendment would allow the Kelantan Government to impose hudud laws on non-Muslims too, Dr Mahathir said that it would be up to the Kelantan Government to decide.

He said it was the people of Kelantan who had voted Pas to power in the State. Therefore, as a democratic country, the Federal Government would allow it to implement hudud laws.

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...ment hudud laws in Kelan...

...us...

...it seem more Islamic than everyone else.

"What Nik Aziz is really

trying to do is announce that he wants to implement such laws, and then turn around and say that he is unable to do so because the Federal Government would not let him," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said even countries with more Muslims than Malaysia had not introduced the hudud laws.

Nik Aziz said last week in Kelantan that his State Government was serious about implementing the laws and had set up a special committee to draft the hudud laws as well as other Syariah laws.

He had said that Kelantan was ready to discuss the implementation of the hudud laws with the Federal Government.

The Hudud laws, among other things, provide for the stoning, whipping and amputation of hands and legs for such offences as adultery, renunciation of Islam and alcohol consumption.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir urged Johor Umno members to remain firm in their commitment to make the party a force to be reckoned with.

Minister... who

...the past cancelled

several scheduled visits to

Johor, apologised for not

...state m... of-

...ten.

"I want you to know that Johor was not singled out."