

Kelantan can adopt Hudud, says Mahathir

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PASIR GUDANG: The Federal Government will not obstruct Kelantan from introducing Hudud laws which provide for the cutting off of limbs in certain criminal offences, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Minister said he would also not stop Kelantan from applying the Hudud laws to non-Muslims as well if this was what the PAS-led state government intended to do.

However, he assured that the Federal Government would not introduce such laws in states ruled by the Barisan Nasional.

"The Kelantan Government has been making statements that it wants to enforce Hudud laws but (said) the Federal Government is the obstacle preventing them from doing this as the Federal Government is un-Islamic.

"It has said it wants these laws so as to be in accordance with Islam, ..

to provide for cutting off of arms, legs and perhaps head for certain criminal offences.

"We have no intention to stop them.

"If there are any provisions in the Federal Constitution which hinder their intentions, we will amend them accordingly.

"So if you steal a car in Kelantan, you will have your arm cut off," he told newsmen after opening a \$1 billion polypropylene plant here.

To a question, Dr Mahathir said Kelantan was free to introduce the Hudud laws to cover even non-Muslims if it wished.

"I want them to go ahead if they so desire. We want to see what happens when they implement this sort of law," he added.

Dr Mahathir said he had decided to give Kelantan the green light as PAS would have exploited the issue for political mileage if the Federal Government had turned it down.