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MAHATHIR SAYS NO WRITTEN AGREEMENT ON HUDUD LAWS
Mahathir-Hudud

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 24 (Bernama) -- The Federal government will not make any written agreement with the PAS-led Kelantan government regarding its willingness to allow implementation of Hudud (Islamic penal) laws in the state, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said he did not see the need for the written undertaking requested by the Kelantan government because the Federal government had expressed its readiness to amend any aspect of the Federal Constitution which might prevent the implementation of Hudud laws.

+We will only amend our laws to free them (the Kelantan government) of obstacles which they say exist. We want to know what are the hindrances and why the need for an agreement?+ he told reporters on his return here from a five-day official visit to Vietnam.

He was commenting on Kelantan Menteri Besar Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's request to the Federal government for a written undertaking on its consent to implementation of Hudud laws in Kelantan. -- more

▼24/04/17-50MST

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Dr Mahathir said if the Kelantan government insisted on a written agreement it could make one but the Federal government would not be a party to it.

Elaborating, he said he could not accept PAS' assurance that implementation of Hudud laws would not bring chaos.

He also rejected the Kelantan government's view that everyone would be afraid to commit crimes if Hudud laws were implemented.

+We know of countries implementing Hudud laws but if women were to walk alone they will not return. The thing is, no reports were lodged,+ he added.

To another question, the Prime Minister said if Hudud laws were implemented in Kelantan the Federal government would not withdraw police personnel from the state because they had other duties to perform.

He added: +So is the case with the existing judicial system. What is ours, is ours. -- more

▼24/04/17-58MST

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+They can try their system using their 'hitmen' to arrest people and chop off their hands.

+It seems a pleasure to cut off people's hands, as though it is unIslamic not to do so,+

Asked if he has decided whether to attend the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June, he said: +Not yet.+

Dr Mahathir will open the Second Ministerial Conference of Developing Countries on Environment and Development here on Monday, the last preparatory meeting for developing nations before the Earth Summit. -- Bernama

▼24/04/17-58MST