

Pas' proposal to implement hudud

NS? 28 APR 92

PM: No need for

agreement laws in Kelantan

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it is not necessary for a written agreement to be drawn up between him and the Kelantan Government over his earlier statement on the State's proposed implementation of hudud laws.

Dr Mahathir said he had already given his assurance to amend the Federal constitution to enable the State to implement the laws.

He asked why there should be a need for an agreement as he had already given his assurance.

Furthermore, he said the Pas-led Kelantan Government had also promised that there would not be any chaos even if the State decided to proceed with its plan.

"They are so eager to cut people's hands, as if not cutting the hands of criminals is un-Islamic," he said on his arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang after a six-day official visit to Vietnam.

He was responding to reporters' questions on the Kelantan Government's decision to seek a written agreement from him before implementing the laws.

Under the laws, a person convicted of stealing shall have his hands cut off while those found guilty of committing adultery shall be stoned.

Two days ago, the Kelantan Government had said that it would seek a written agreement with Dr Mahathir before implementing the laws.

Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman said the State Government wanted an official commitment from the Federal Government on the matter.

Dr Mahathir had earlier

proposed amendments to the Federal constitution to enable the Kelantan Government to implement the laws if they are really serious about the matter.

Asked what would be the role of the police when the laws are enforced, Dr Mahathir said the police come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government and therefore would continue to be responsible for implementing Federal laws.

Among those present to welcome the Prime Minister and his entourage were Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba and a number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

In Kuching, MCA deputy president Datuk Lee Kim Sai said today the MCA will not co-operate with the DAP in opposing the implementation of the laws, Tan Chin Siang reports.

Nevertheless, the MCA feels that the laws should not be implemented in a multi-ethnic Malaysia.

Lee said that since the MCA did not have a representative in Kelantan, while the DAP has been a party to what has been happening in that State, the DAP should then have full responsibility over the matter.

"The Prime Minister has already stated it very clearly. Hudud laws are not suitable for this country.

"But if the people of Kelantan want it, then the Federal Government has no objection to it," he said.

Lee was speaking to reporters after the opening of the three-day 49th annual general meeting and scientific convention of the Malaysian Dental Association.

"Where in this world can you find a ruling party working hand-in-hand with an opposition party?"

He said it had always been the practice of the DAP to look to the MCA and Gerakan whenever it ran into problems.