

MP: Pas has not done hudud groundwork

PAS leaders are ill-prepared to implement the *hudud* laws despite advocating the system for years because the groundwork has not been done, Pasir Mas MP Ibrahim Ali said.

He said the party was caught by surprise when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Federal Government would amend the Federal Constitution to allow the Pas-led Kelantan Government to implement the *hudud* laws.

Pas, he said, set up a committee to study the implementation of the *hudud* laws only after Dr Mahathir's announcement.

Ibrahim said Pas could not introduce the laws overnight without preparing Muslims and non-Muslims for the system.

The Federal Government should allow a Pas MP to table a Bill in the Dewan

Rakyat to amend the Constitution which would pave the way for the implementation of *hudud* laws, he added.

"Let's see how Pas presents the Bill," he said when debating the motion of thanks for the royal address.

He said Barisan Nasional component parties should not misunderstand Dr Mahathir's willingness to allow Pas to implement the laws.

"Dr Mahathir cannot tolerate Pas' insistence that Umno is against Islam."

Hadi Awang (Pas-Marang) said the proposed implementation of *hudud* laws would not discriminate against non-Muslims.

He said history had proven that the laws were effective in curbing crime because of the psychological effects on the people.

"It has been proven that

the introduction of *hudud* laws during Prophet Muhammad's time was effective in bringing down crime rates.

"Enforcement of the laws had a psychological effect on the population, thus deterring them from committing major crimes for fear of prosecution."

He said the laws were more than just a matter of cutting people's hands as they were laid down to provide justice to all.

"When the Kelantan Government voiced its intention to implement *hudud* laws, people were quick to react, saying that implementing them would infringe on the rights of non-Muslims in the country.

"This is not true as *hudud* laws not only provide justice to all but also protect the interests of non-Muslims."