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MAHATHIR SAYS NO +HUDUD+ LAWS IN UMNO-RULED STATES

Mahathir-law

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 2 (Bernama) -- Umno will not implement the +hudud+ (Islamic penal) laws in states ruled by it because the party practises the Islamic civil law system, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said this was because the country had a multi-racial and multi-religious population.

Umno would not prevent PAS from implementing the +hudud+ laws so long as PAS could prove that it was doing so sincerely according to Islamic teachings and not solely for political reasons, he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council here.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said: +In my opinion, it is its (PAS') intention to put Umno in a difficult position because it believes Umno will prevent (the implementation of the laws).

+This is its intention, and we can easily see that it is with a political and not religious motive.+ -- more

▼02/05/15-41MST

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Dr Mahathir said PAS, as usual, was using religion as its political tool, and that the party announced it was implementing +hudud+ laws only to gain political mileage rather than to emphasise the requirements of the religion.

This was evident from the absence of preparation and study on the +hudud+ laws, how the laws were to be implemented, the implications of introducing the laws, and various other aspects, he added.

Dr Mahathir said PAS did not undertake any study or make preparations on the matter because it believed that Umno would prevent the implementation of the laws.

He also said that one element of +hudud+ laws was that an individual found guilty and penalised under existing laws, had to be penalised again under the +hudud+ laws.

+If this is not done, it will mean that the hudud laws are not implemented in full,+ he added. -- more

▼02/05/16-05MST

CNS3191

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In KOTA BAHARU, Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee deputy chief Senator Haji Annuar Musa said PAS should first amend the Kelantan Constitution to provide for implementation of +hudud+ laws before moving on to the Federal Constitution.

+PAS will have no problem at all in amending the state constitution because it enjoys a majority in the Kelantan Legislative Assembly, and then it can seek the royal assent of the Tuanku (Sultan of Kelantan),+ he added.

Then, PAS could talk of amending the Federal Constitution and, in this matter, it did not have to ask the Prime Minister or Umno because PAS had its representatives in Parliament, he said.

Annuar, who is Youth and Sports Minister, was speaking at a gathering of Kelantan youths at the Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Ketherah, near here. -- Bernama

▼02/05/16-17MST