

Dr M: Hudud laws not for Barisan States

By Sa'odah Elias ^B

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno will never consent to the implementation of hudud laws in the States ruled by the Barisan Nasional, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The party, he said, believed that the stand it had adopted was consistent with Islamic jurisprudence which advocated that the rulers, to ensure justice for

all, take into consideration the existing social and political situation before implementing certain laws.

"Umno's stand is that the hudud laws cannot be implemented in Malaysia because it is a multi-religious and multi-racial country," he told a Press conference after the Umno Supreme Council meeting which he chaired.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Umno president, said he would not try to stop Kelan-

tan from implementing the hudud laws if the Pas-led State Government could show that it was doing so to uphold the Islamic teachings and not solely for political interests.

"But we have reason to

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believe that Pas is not sincere in its decision to implement the law and is instead trying to gain political mileage through it.

"By proposing it, they want to put Umno in a difficult situation because they think that we will try to stop them. If that happens, they can then tell the public it is Umno that is stopping them from implementing the law," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was clear that the Pas Government in Kelantan was politically-motivated when it announced the proposed implementation of the law.

He said the Pas Govern-

ment, believing that Umno would try to stop them, had not even made an in-depth study of the law and how it should be implemented.

Because of that, he said, Umno would not make any move to stop it from implementing the law in Kelantan.

However, Dr Mahathir said Umno wanted to know more about the law and how the Kelantan Government was going to implement it.

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