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Parliament-hudud

HUDUD LAWS CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED YET, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the hudud (Islamic penal) laws could not be implemented in the country yet as the time was not right.

He said the government would have to conduct a detailed study on the matter first and it would not be fair to have such laws only for the interests of certain parties as the country was multi-racial.

Muslims would face social problems if such laws were introduced suddenly while non-Muslims who opposed the laws might resort to creating unrest, he said when winding up the debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1993 in the Dewan Rakyat.

He said this would affect the stability of the country as was proven by the example of an Islamic nation which had almost 100 per cent Muslim population and which implemented such laws but now faced social unrest.

The government did not want a situation where the Muslim community here became weak due to economic and social problems caused by the untimely implementation of hudud laws, he added. -- more

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The Prime Minister told Nik Abdullah Arshad (PAS-Pengkalan Chepa) that in not implementing hudud laws, it did not mean that the government had no confidence in Islam.

"In the present situation, I cannot convince myself on the merits of implementing hudud laws," he said.

Replying to Haji Mohamed Sabu (PAS-Nilam Puri), Dr Mahathir said the government would study a draft on hudud laws to be tabled at the Kelantan State Legislative Assembly.

He said it would be the responsibility of the Federal government to ensure that the implementation of such laws in Kelantan did not cause problems to the people there.

He urged PAS not to politicise the issue as the government would implement hudud laws when circumstances allowed it. -- Bernama

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