

# Federal Govt to study K'tan hudud bill

PEKAN: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Federal Government will study closely the *hudud* bill passed by the Kelantan State Assembly yesterday.

"We want to find out whether the laws are in line with Islam or just a political gimmick," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the PAS-led government went ahead and passed the bill (see page 10) even when it knew it was against the Federal Constitution.

He said PAS could now claim it wanted to enforce the *hudud* laws but the Federal Government did not approve it.

"This is PAS, doing things to ensure that they will have an issue to raise," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was much leeway in Islam but the problem was that some Muslims wanted to make the religion very difficult.

DAP chairman and MP for Jelutong, Karpal Singh, said the *hudud* bill

was null and void as it was inconsistent with several provisions in the Federal Constitution.

He said the bill contravened Article 11 of the Constitution which guaranteed the freedom of religion.

"Under the bill, the implementation of the *hudud* law can be extended to a non-Muslim and this is against the Constitution as you can't impose Muslim law on a non-Muslim," he told *The Star* yesterday.

He said by being inconsistent with Article 11, the bill could be considered null and void under Article 4 (1) of the Constitution.

This article states that any law passed after Independence Day can be considered null and void if it is against any provision of the Federal Constitution.

He said the enactment was also inconsistent with the Penal Code, the law which dealt with criminal offences.

"With the enactment being passed, there will be a problem as the provisions under the code and the *hudud* system are conflicting," he added.

Karpal Singh also said the DAP would study all the implications before taking the "necessary action."

Barisan Nasional MP for Pasir Mas Ibrahim Ali said the implementation of *hudud* laws in Kelantan will confuse many as the state was not prepared for it.

Describing the move as political, Ibrahim said PAS would encounter difficulties in implementing the *hudud* laws.

"PAS expects the general elections to be next year; the move was more political than anything else," he told reporters at Parliament House yesterday.

He called on the party to learn from the mistake of Sudan which failed in implementing the *hudud* laws.

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