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Mahathir-hudud

GOVT DOES NOT RECOGNISE PAS' HUDUD LAWS, SAYS (MAHATHIR)

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government does not recognise the "hudud" (Islamic penal) laws approved by the PAS government in Kelantan because they do not reflect justice according to Islamic laws.

He said the laws could not be recognised because they would clearly bring about injustice.

"Islam speaks of the importance of justice and how cruelty should not be present in the implementation of anything at all in Islam," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Therefore, he said, the question of amending the Federal Constitution to allow for implementation of the laws did not arise at all.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, was asked to comment on a newspaper report today that the Sultan of Kelantan had given his assent to the Syariah Criminal Code (II) 1993 (Hudud) which was approved by the Kelantan Legislative Assembly. -- more

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Kelantan State Secretary Datuk Ismail Hassan is reported to have said yesterday that the sultan had given his assent to the laws but they had yet to be gazetted pending the federal government's decision on amending the constitution.

Dr Mahathir said the government would not recognise the laws until it was able to study them in depth.

"If they want to approve the laws, that is up to them but we do not accept them as Islamic laws," he said.

The prime minister said Kelantan Menteri Besar Nik Aziz Nik Mat had sent him a draft of the laws and had also come to see him.

"I explained that we cannot accept what has been drawn up by PAS as reflecting justice according to Islamic laws," he said. -- Bernama

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