

16 AUG 2002
Rais-Takzir
LET COURT DECIDE ON TAKZIR- RAIS

KUALA KLAWANG, Negeri Sembilan, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said today the court will decide whether the Terengganu PAS Government has the right to implement the Syariah Criminal Offences Enactment (Takzir).

"To me the polemics on this should stop and the court will decide on this later. As to when this will happen it is for the court to decide."

"So long as there are groups speaking for and against the implementation of the Takzir, the matter will remain unresolved," he said when asked to comment on reports that the Terengganu Government was determined to implement the Hudud Law despite the Federal Government's warning that it would take legal action.

Earlier Rais attended a briefing on the development of Jelebu District here.

He said the Federal Government's stand on this was clear --it rejected the implementation of Takzir.

However there were groups interested in bringing up this matter for a decision by the court and "I do not know when the court will decide on this."

"I do not see the PAS Government admitting defeat in this matter or accepting the fact from the aspect of the country's laws despite the warning by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that they should not implement laws that are one-sided such as this."

" It should be determined whether what the PAS Government is doing is in line with the requirements of the actual Syariah Law or the Hudud Law under the Al-Quran or Hadis or in fact it is a new creation which is a diversion from the actual teachings of Islam."

"This will have to be decided by the responsible authority."

It should also be noted that the laws drawn up in Kelantan differed from the Hudud Laws created in Terengganu, he added.

On the development of Jelebu District, Rais, who is the Member of Parliament for Jelebu, said the Federal Government would spend more than RM100 million over the next five years on road and other projects in the area.

He said the bulk of the allocation would be spent on the construction and upgrading of both state and Federal roads.

Work on the new alignment and upgrading of the Seremban-Kuala Klawang road at Bukit Putus was being actively implemented at a cost of RM39 million.

Works to upgrade the Kuala Klawang-Simpang Pertang road costing RM18 million would begin next month.

Dr Rais also said Universiti Malaya would open a branch of its Geology Studies Centre in Jelebu next year.

-- BERNAMA
RP APG AAM