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PAS PLACES TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE ON PROCEDURE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, May 31 (Bernama) -- The Terengganu PAS government attaches too much importance to procedure at the expense of justice in drafting the Syariah Criminal Enactment Bill for the state, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

As such, it was better for PAS to refer the bill to the Attorney-General's Chamber to ensure that it was in line with the federal laws and the concept of justice, the prime minister said after chairing the second pre-budget dialogue, here.

"In Islam the priority is justice...if it's not fair, we don't do it...but it seems that they don't care...they only care for procedure.

"Procedure does not ensure justice," he told reporters when asked to comment on the Terengganu PAS government's willingness to discuss the bill with all parties including Dr Mahathir.

The proposed bill, expected to be tabled in July, had received protests from Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and 12 women non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which claimed that it discriminated against women.

Sharizat disputed section 9 (2) which states that a woman who alleges rape but cannot produce four male witnesses to provide proof will be guilty of slander and liable to be whipped 80 times.

-- BERNAMA

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