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Hamid-Hudud

PAS SHOULD RETHINK TABLING HUDUD LAWS, SAYS RELIGIOUS ADVISER TO PM

PENANG, May 30 (Bernama) -- The PAS-led Terengganu Government has been asked to reconsider its plan to table the Syariah Criminal Enactment on Hudud and Qisas (revenge crime restitution) said to be inconsistent with the current justice system.

Religious Adviser to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said detailed study taking into account views of legal experts and the society must be done before hudud laws could be enforced.

"Hudud laws to be introduced by PAS are actually not parallel to the legal justice maybe because they are based on books of Islamic theology produced in the early days," he told reporters after meeting staff of the Inland Revenue Department here today.

He was asked to comment on press reports that 12 women non-governmental organisations nationwide had protested the state government's decision to table the Bill said to contain provisions that oppressed and victimised Muslim women.

Section 9 of the proposal Bill stipulates that the burden of proof for a rape case was on the woman to produce four male witnesses, failing which, the rape victim will be whipped 80 times.

Dr Abdul Hamid said when the Islamic Law books on hudud laws were written by ulamas, the situation then was not as complex as at present.

He said hudud laws were not something unsuitable but they must be studied thoroughly, emphasising on aspects of justice based on current situations.

"That's why if we want to implement hudud laws, we must be careful. It looks like Pas is not giving importance to justice but more to sentiments and the party's interests," he said.

Dr Abdul Hamid also regretted the statement by Pas President Datuk Fadzil Noor that laws enacted by the Barisan Nasional (BN) government in Kelantan prevented Malaysians from marrying foreigners.

He said the laws were made to curb polygamy and to preserve harmony in Islamic families.

Dr Abdul Hamid said syariah laws enacted by the BN Government were drawn up by syariah and civil law experts as well as members of the community and were consented to by the Malay Rulers in the respective states.

"PAS' move to amend the syariah laws also made it difficult for the government to streamline the syariah legal system nationwide which was agreed to by the Conference of Rulers," he said.

On his visit to the Inland Revenue Board, Dr Abdul Hamid said it was part of a series of information sessions embarked on by the government following the declaration by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysia was an Islamic state.

He said briefings on the matter for government employees were important as they formed the government's administrative machinery and they should understand what is meant by an Islamic state.

"Malaysia is an Islamic state that does not deny its citizens the freedom to worship other religions.

"Islam is the pillar of the country's administration as the political power is with the Muslims," he added.

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