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Rais-Hudud

PEOPLE, THE BEST PARTY TO QUESTION PAS'S HUDUD LAW, SAYS RAIS

PUTRAJAYA, July 8 (Bernama) -- The people of Terengganu are the best party to refer the PAS's Hudud law to the court for breaching the constitution and the real Hudud law, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim today.

"If it is the federal government, it may be viewed as politically motivated or that the federal government is not giving the people the opportunity to determine it themselves," he said after receiving the call from U.S. National Security Council Senior Director for Asian Affairs James Moriarty at his office here.

Rais said the Hudud law passed by the Terengganu government was not the real Hudud and Qisas as that understood by Islamic law experts in the country.

"It is more of a political system of the Terengganu PAS," he said.

He said the Terengganu PAS government had breached the constitution by introducing the Syariah Criminal Offences (Hudud and Qisas) legislation.

Rais said the PAS's Hudud law would have wide implication in terms of administration and judicial.

"In terms of its administration, the enforcement of the law would clash with the administrative problems between one state and another, and between the Terengganu state and the federal government," he said.

"It is regrettable that PAS legal experts had totally ignored Article 74 and 75 of the Malaysian Constitution and the Scheduled contained therein, prohibiting the formulation of criminal law except by the federal government," he said.

He said the best advice had been given but was ignored by the Terengganu state government.

In terms of enforcement, he said it was not stated whether it would be the police or other enforcement agencies which would enforce the law.

"If the system of administrating the law is incomplete, how to enforce it," he said.

He said this would only make a mockery of the law when it could not be implemented.

On the call by Moriarty, Rais said it was a follow up of matters contained in the cooperation document signed during the visit of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's to Washington last May.

He said Malaysia and the United States signed an agreement of understanding to counter problems relating to terrorism.

"So we had discussed among others the possibility of training and exchange of information," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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