

21 JUN 2002  
Mahathir-PAS  
UMNO WON'T DISCUSS HUDUD LAW WITH PAS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Umno will not sit down with PAS to discuss the Hudud law in Terengganu as it is being drafted for political reasons and not in the interest of Islam.

The Prime Minister said the PAS plan to pass the Hudud law was merely to deceive the Malays.

"We won't discuss (Hudud). It is being done for PAS political gains, not for Islam. We don't want to discuss with them matters that are not related to Muslims.

"We know they (PAS) want to deceive the Malays. That's all," said the Umno president at a media conference at the end of the second day of the Umno General Assembly 2002 here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on PAS' willingness to discuss with Umno the proposed Syariah Crime Bill (Hudud and Qisas) scheduled to be tabled at the Terengganu State Legislative Assembly on July 7.

Dr Mahathir also commented on the challenge by PAS deputy president and Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang who wanted the government to show which part of the bill was contradictory to Islamic teachings.

The Prime Minister said Islamic law was fair and it could not be unjust like the ala PAS Hudud law.

The ala PAS Hudud law, among other things, was not fair to rape victims who faced the possibility of punishment, he said.

"The PAS law wants to abuse victims. If you are robbed, you go to prison, while the robber gets away with it. That's PAS law. That's why we say it's not the same as Islamic law.

"They don't have to make such laws. The Quran has repeatedly explained that when you pass judgement, do it fairly. I want to know if Hadi is robbed, we catch Hadi and send him to prison. Does he want that?," Dr Mahathir asked.

On the proposal by one of the speakers at the assembly who wanted the government to monitor PAS closely because its ceramahs were said to influence militant activities in Malaysia, Dr Mahathir said:

"We realise that the younger generation in PAS do not believe that they could form the government in Malaysia through democratic process. That's why they believe that the only way for them to wrest power is through force."

He said all those who studied in Afghanistan and Pakistan on how to topple the government using violence were members and younger generation leaders of PAS.

"The link is there quite definitely because they are PAS members. But we are not saying this is instigated by PAS," he said.

Replying to other another question, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who was also present at the media conference, said the government had already prepared a draft of the white paper on the activities of Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM).

"We have the draft. Investigation is going on. So we don't want to conclude the investigation yet. As we continue, we will come up with more and more information," said Abdullah.

Dr Mahathir added that the government would have to take into account related court cases before releasing the document.

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