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Hudud: No need for police aid, says Hadi

Ranjeetha Pakiam

KUALA TERENGGANU, Wed. - The State Government will implement the Terengganu Syariah and Criminal Offence Enactment (Hudud and Qisas) with or without the co-operation of the police when the law is gazetted on Oct 27.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said he was grateful to the police for upholding the law and fighting crime, but the Pas State Government did not need their co-operation in implementing the hudud.

"We will go ahead with our plans as we intend to keep our promise to the people. We don't need approval from anyone, not even the police, as they are involved in general crime matters.

"The Enactment (Hudud and Qisas) does not come under their jurisdiction," he said after the Exco meeting at Wisma Darul Iman today.

Hadi, who is Pas president, said the date of implementation was significant as it coincided with the first day of Ramadan when Muslims worldwide began fasting.

"Non-Muslims living in the State need not fear the change as they will be given a choice of being tried under either the Federal judicial system or the Syariah Court," he said.

Under hudud, he added, cases would be dismissed if there was even a shred of doubt in the evidence. Hadi said there were many misconceptions about Syariah laws as certain aspects had been blown out of proportion.

"For example, the Syariah Court is fair and does not impinge on women's rights though many seem to think so. In the case of rape, it is the man that is on trial, not the woman, thus there is a need to be absolutely certain her accusations are true."

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's retirement at the end of the month, Hadi said he was grateful for all his contributions to the country.

However, he said while the Government and Dr Mahathir had successfully hosted international summits such as the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference Summits, the plight of the country's poor had been neglected.