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`Pas cheating us over Islamic criminal law'

Aniza Damis; Ahmad Fairuz Othman

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Pas is cheating the people when it says that it has given them an Islamic criminal law, says Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib today.

Although Pas had said that it had fulfilled its promise to the people, the reality was that the party knew it had no way of enforcing the law, he added.

He said Pas could not say who would enforce the law, and whether there would be anyone to enforce it, and yet it still went ahead with gazetting it, knowing that the law could not be implemented.

"Pas is just trying to blur the people's eyes by making them think it has an enforceable law. Then, the party will point fingers at the Federal Government and say that it is our fault that the law cannot be implemented," he said.

Pas, he added, played too many political games, and did whatever it believed was right, only to end up making a lot of mistakes.

He hoped that the people of Terengganu would not be gullible to fall for Pas' false promise.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government would take action if Pas' version of hudud in Terengganu violated Federal laws.

Terengganu's Syariah Criminal Enactment (Hudud and Qisas) was gazetted yesterday.

DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh said the Federal Government had a right to take legal action against the Terengganu Government if its hudud had contravened the Federal Constitution.

He said the Federal Government was responsible to ensure all States stayed within their legislative powers.

"Dr Mahathir is right when stating the Federal Government will take legal action against any State whose implementation of hudud contravenes the laws of the country".

He said Terengganu's hudud was unconstitutional. He said the State Government had no power to enact the law in the first place.

He added that any law that contravenes provisions of the Federal Constitution was void because the constitution was the supreme law of the country.

"I am surprised Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang who, when being sworn in as an MP, had taken the oath to preserve, protect and defend the constitution, is violating the very constitution by initiating an enactment which contravenes the constitution".

Karpal urged the Federal Government to invoke Article 130 which advises the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to refer to the Federal Court on the constitutionality of the enactment.