

**'Mass exodus if hudud made law', warn PAS supporters**

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PAS Supporters Wing has warned that it may see a mass exodus should the Islamic party press on with implementing hudud law in Kelantan.

"What may follow is a mass exodus from the party if the leaders in PAS become insistent on championing hudud law," wing chairperson Hu Pang Chow told Sinar Harian.

pas 2007 muktamar 020607 hu pang chowIn its report today, the Malay daily said the PAS Supporters Wing comprises some 20,000 members and is a platform for non-Muslims to show their support for PAS.

"PAS cannot toy with this issue. Thus far non-Muslims have supported PAS because they thought it is the best party and it suited them.

"But now (the party) wants to implement hudud. Our members cannot accept this," Hu (left) was quoted as saying.

He said PAS, which rules Kelantan, should emulate DAP-ruled Penang and focus on more immediate issues such as reducing the crime rate and increasing employment opportunities.

Indians form bulk of supporters wing

However, Hu was contradicted in the report by his deputy, N Balasubramaniam, who said that Indians, who were the majority in the wing, had no problem with the implementation of hudud law.

"Kelantan should be given the chance (to implement hudud law). If it succeeds then it can be implemented in the other states as well," Balasubramaniam was quoted as saying.

He said the wing did not fear hudud law as it would apply only to Muslims convicted of a crime.

PAS spiritual adviser Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat blames the federal government for the inability to implement hudud law in Kelantan, since Putrajaya has refused to support a necessary amendment to the federal constitution for this to take place.

The ongoing debates in the media over the hudud law have resulted in the BN and Pakatan Rakyat leaders locking horns on the issue.

DAP has continuously reiterated its opposition to hudud law.

The PAS-led Kelantan government announced yesterday that it would form a technical committee on hudud law to ensure its progress once it is implemented in the state.