

Mat Sabu denies PAS will amend constitution for hudud

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By Abdul Rahim Sabri

PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu denied a news report today that quoted him saying his party will amend the federal constitution to implement hudud should Pakatan Rakyat capture Putrajaya.

In his interview with Chinese newspaper Sin Chew Daily, he said, he only explained that any change to the current laws must have majority support in Parliament and abide by the federal constitution as well as have the agreement of Pakatan component parties.

"I did not say (we'll bring) hudud (to Parliament)," he told Malaysiakini when met last night.

Mohamad, who is also more popularly known as Mat Sabu, stressed that even if the implementation of hudud was tabled in Parliament, it would not be passed without majority support from the MPs.

He added that good governance and social justice must be practised in Malaysia before implementing the Islamic penal code.

Speaking to PAS organ Harakahdaily, the PAS number two hit out at the Chinese daily, accusing it of unethical reporting and twisting his words.

"That reporter called me. His Bahasa Malaysia is also not very fluent. That was why I said one thing but he wrote another thing," he was reported as saying on the online version of Harakahdaily.

Sin Chew Daily today front-paged Mohamad's statement that PAS would propose a constitutional amendment to implement hudud should the Islamic party capture Putrajaya.

He was quoted as saying that this was the Islamic party's stance and that DAP and non-Muslims MPs could raise their objections.

"If DAP or other non-Muslims MPs object, it is their freedom (to do so) because according to Islamic principle, Islam cannot force non-Muslims to believe it.

"PAS believes Malaysians can support this stance. If most (MPs) do not agree to amend the constitution, PAS will accept the views of the majority and continue with the current syariah law," he was quoted as saying.

English daily The Star also published the same report today.

'Hudud will be implemented in Terengganu'

In another relevant development, Terengganu PAS Youth chief Mohd Nor Hamzah said hudud would be implemented in the east coast state if PAS comes to power in the state.

“Yes, we will implement it (hudud) as it was consented to by the sultan and gazetted (when PAS ruled Terengganu after winning the state in 1999),” he was quoted as saying by English daily New Straits Times.

He said that it is possible to implement hudud in Terengganu even if Pakatan fail to wrest Putrajaya in the next general election.

“I don’t see any problem as Islam is under the state government,” he added.

The Bukit Payung assemblyperson said negotiations or muzakarah would be held with Pakatan leaders opposed to hudud if they come to power at the federal level in the next general polls.

The Terengganu state assembly had passed its hudud enactment in 2002 when PAS ruled the state government but it was not implemented due to objections from the federal government.

The status quo was maintained after BN took over the state government in 2004.

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