

DAP's position on hudud differs from that of MCA

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While PAS and DAP's views on hudud differ, the DAP said its views on this Islamic law are unlike the views held by the MCA, said Rasah MP Anthony Loke, who is also the DAP Socialist Youth chief.

Loke said while DAP does not agree on hudud, our position is not like that of the MCA which is trying to portray a very bad picture on Islam and hudud - and which is out to frighten the Chinese.

"If we are not involved in crime, why should we worry over its implementation or punishment? What MCA is doing is demonising Islam, painting Islam with an extremist kind of image with regard to hudud, to which we do not agree," he said.

"I think it is clear hudud will not be imposed on non-Muslims which the MCA has always been harping on. We respect Islam as the official religion of the federation but other races can also practice their beliefs," he said.

Loke said what we are saying is that we do not try to paint a bad picture of Islam, and that is what MCA is doing right now.

Loke said it could be the MCA agenda of trying to put words into our mouth in trying to say we are trying to help PAS implement hudud.

This, he said, is not true as our position is clear - we are not able to implement hudud because it is not in line with the constitution.

MCA agenda to frighten non-Muslims

The Rasah MP said it is the MCA agenda is to frighten off the non-Muslims and Pakatan Rakyat as a whole on PAS, where they are trying to paint PAS as an extremist party.

"We are comfortable working with PAS, because we disagree with them on the implementation of hudud, but that doesn't mean that PAS is a extremist party. In a ceramah I told the people why are you afraid of your hands being chopped off, as it is the same as the death penalty via hanging which is even more frightening than chopping off hands," he said.

"I am not supporting hudud but I am telling the people not to be afraid as the next election is not about hudud but about realising the dream of having a two-party system. But MCA is tying its very best to divert the Chinese community, if you vote for Pakatan, there will be no return and your hands or legs will be chopped off," he said.

He accused several Chinese papers of twisting his comments as they only reported part of what he said. He said they know that if they succeed in playing up the hudud issue, it would create or encourage more arguments between PAS and DAP as they are trying to break up Pakatan.

"The moment Pakatan breaks up then it's the end of the challenge to BN... The (media) is using the hudud issue as their agenda, because some media are at their disposal. The main objective is to break up Pakatan. Let's be honest about it, they do not bother about hudud or not hudud, what they are worried about is if Pakatan remains intact," said Loke.

PAS: We respect each other's views

Meanwhile, PAS secretary-general Mustafa Ali said PAS and the DAP will not quarrel despite their different views on the implementation of hudud laws.

He said they recognise that there are different views between PAS and DAP on the issue.

"We respect each other's views on this and would not quarrel or harp on it for others to exploit. The Malay papers are pointing out the differences as they fear the implementation of hudud among the Muslims," he said.

"Similarly, he said the Chinese media are playing up this issue to possibly create the impression that hudud will be implemented on the non-Muslims, which is not correct," he said.

The hudud issue became a hot topic following some Chinese reports quoting PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu saying if PAS gains power it will amend the laws to introduce hudud.

Mustafa admitted that he gave an interview to Sin Chew Daily sometime on Aug 10, before the hudud furore was brought up by the mainstream media and he did not know why his interview was pitted against that of Mat Sabu.

Meanwhile, MCA central committee member Loh Seng Kok said that Anwar Ibrahim's statement on the hudud issue last Saturday showed he had "bowed down" to PAS.

He added that the statement shows that Anwar "would also agree that other states may follow suit" if Pakatan wins the next polls.

Loh claims that this implies that Pakatan will impose similar enactments to ban swine-rearing, Christmas celebrations, casino operations in Genting Highlands and lucky draws without the need to amend the federal constitution.

Anwar had last Saturday met with PAS spiritual leader Nik Aziz Nik Mat, and was quoted as saying that "leeway" will be given to PAS in terms of the hudud as "the state has already implemented part of it".

"Meanwhile, at the national level, we will give space but this will still be bound to the federal constitution and further discussions," he was quoted by Sinar Harian as saying.

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