

**Anwar downplays hudud row in Pakatan
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PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim has downplayed the latest round of wrangling between PAS and DAP over the hudud issue.

He told Malaysiakini that the two parties have their differences over the issue for some time, but remain on the same page when it comes to issues of governance.

“So I think let them continue having this engagement and discussion. We have had a long session yesterday (Tuesday) on this issue,” he said yesterday.

He added that the discussion among the three parties in the opposition coalition was cordial despite disagreements.

Anwar was responding to a question whether Pakatan Rakyat is in danger of falling apart with the latest dustup over hudud, which includes punishments such as amputations for theft and stoning for adultery.

Early last month, Kelantan Menteri Besar Ahmad Yaakob said PAS is prepared to table a private member’s bill with the necessary amendments to allow the state to implement its Syariah Criminal Code II Enactment 1993.

The enactment has been in place since the 1990s, but could not be implemented under existing federal laws.

Since mooting the private member’s bill in Parliament, DAP leaders have vocally opposed the idea and vowed to vote against it.

In the latest of these disagreements, DAP acting chairperson Tan Kok Wai warned PAS that it has no place in the Pakatan coalition if the party is adamant in pushing for the controversial law.

When asked on how PKR would vote on the bill, Anwar replied, “The issue of how it will be tabled, (and) when it will be tabled, has not been resolved.

“Let us resolve that first.”