

Perkasa wants Kurup's head for hudud statement
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Malay rights group Perkasa today urged Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Joseph Kurup to be transferred from his current portfolio over statements the latter reportedly made on hudud.

Kurup was reported as saying in The Star today that hudud is disrupting inter-racial harmony in the country, and Perkasa chief Ibrahim Ali responded by saying that Kurup is "not qualified" to hold the post.

"I strongly criticise Kurup's statement. He said (debate on) hudud hurts feelings, but I want to ask him - the statements against hudud, do they not hurt feelings of Muslims?" Ibrahim asked in a press conference near the Brunei embassy today where he had submitted a memorandum.

He added he wanted Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to come down hard on Kurup by changing his portfolio with another minister.

Ibrahim also said that Kurup was "one-sided" in issues pertaining to Islam because the minister only defends one side.

"If he doesn't have feelings like this, then how will he promote national unity? Joseph Kurup only cares about other religions, not Muslims. This is not the national unity element," he said.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim also said that the opposition to hudud by some parties was being done for political interests alone.

In fact, he said that such opposition was against freedom of speech and democracy as espoused by the civil society.

"In a democracy, they should give an opportunity for Muslims to do what they feel is right according to Islamic teachings," he said.

"A technical committee has been set up between the state and federal governments, just wait for them to finish their task," he added.

"Let the matter be presented in Parliament and then voice your opposition. Going against like this, I see it as an opposition to Islam as a whole."

Meanwhile, Ibrahim announced that Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkhiah has invited Perkasa

to observe the implementation of Hudud in the nation, which started Thursday.

"We were invited by His Highness' representatives to visit Brunei to view the implementation of the Hudud.

"We thank him for the offer," he said, adding that the details of the trip is still to be sorted out.

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