

Gov't refuses to reveal stand on Hadi's bill

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By Ram Anand

The federal government today maintained a stoic silence in not revealing whether it would support PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang's private member's bill to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act in Parliament.

Despite consistent grilling by PAS lawmakers in Parliament, Islamic Affairs Minister Jamil Khir Baharom refused to state the government's stand on the amendment.

Jamil Khir started the debate by openly challenging PAS to bring amendments related to hudud enforcement in Kelantan to the Parliament.

Hadi (right) had submitted a private member's bill to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965 to increase the scope of punishment in syariah courts.

If passed, it would subsequently allow Kelantan to start enforcing hudud in the state.

"A private member's bill has its own process. We need to look at the bill first.

"When it comes up, only then the question of supporting the bill arises," Jamil Khir said.

This was despite persistent questions by Mahfuz Omar (PAS-Pokok Sena) and Mujahid Yusof Rawa (PAS-Parit Buntar).

Jamil Khir said the government has not fully looked at the content of the bill, which Abdul Hadi, the Marang MP submitted to the speaker's office on March 18.

It remains unclear if the bill would see the light of the day in this session, which only lasts for two more weeks, as government bills are given priority.

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