

No talks on implementation of hudud law, says Hadi's aide
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KUALA TERENGGANU: PAS has denied discussing the implementation of hudud law or pushing for an Islamic state with its political allies in Pakatan Rakyat.

The Star reported Saturday that an aide to PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang said the party's leadership has not met its allies to talk about the matter.

Hanafi Ismail said in the English daily that Abdul Hadi had never spoken about the party's intention to advocate Islamic law or push for an Islamic state if Pakatan were to seize power in the next general election.

"I am not sure how this issue surfaced but I believe it was done intentionally in bad faith.

"We would have issued a press statement if the so-called discussion had been held with DAP and PKR," Hanafi was quoted as saying Friday.

He was asked to comment on an online news report alleging that PAS would push for an Islamic state if Pakatan were to win the next general election.

Abdul Hadi had reportedly said in an exclusive interview with The Malaysian Insider that the Islamist party would focus on introducing such laws in PAS-governed states like Kelantan and Kedah first, to allow Malaysians to "evaluate" the merits of Islamic and hudud law, if it wins in the next general election.

The PAS leader said the plan would be implemented in stages given the importance to understand the word Islam itself. "Islam cannot be defined as a religion because the word religion in itself does not fully define Islam," he said.

"We don't want a situation where the country is an Islamic state only by name but the message remains misunderstood. That is why it has to be done in stages," he added.

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