

## Non-Pursuit Of Hudud In Kedah A Tall Tale

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Given the repeated emphasis by PAS top leaders to implement PAS hudud law should Pakatan Rakyat win federal office, and more importantly, the non-Muslim rebuff against religious-based theocratic practices, claims by PAS Kelantan deputy information chief Ahmad Baihaki Atiquallah that PAS is not pursuing hudud in Kedah (Malaysiakini, 14 Dec '11) are insincere.

Such an announcement is targeted at shoring up voter support from non-Muslim Kedahans which have taken a dive.

PAS has to make such an announcement because the PAS-led Kedah state government has already begun executing hardline interpretation of religions tenets and realises that their state policies have proven to be a repellant against non-Muslims.

Examples of how semblance of PAS' hudud have crept into Kedah state are as follows:

- 1) Gender segregation during the New Year countdown to avoid pick-pocketing and indecent behaviour
- 2) Kedah's sole pig abattoire was demolished without proper relocation, forcing Kedah butchers to obtain their supply from other states
- 3) Local authorities mandated that non-Muslims businesses stop operations for 15 minutes during Muslim prayer times. Threats of licence confiscation were made in cases of non-compliance.
- 4) Directives were issued to Chinese shops to shut at 3pm during Ramadan
- 5) Orders were given to entertainment outlets disallowing their operations during Ramadan
- 6) Sg Petani Municipal Council ordered pork butchers to darken the windows of their outlets

Repeated reminders from PAS leaders to enforce PAS hudud law

In an interview with The Sun published on 9 Dec '11, PAS Kelantan spokesman on hudud Mohd Amar Abdullah stressed the party's intention of enforcing Kelantan Hudud Enactment 1993 when time is right. Moreover, PAS President Hadi Awang reminded that the PAS Constitution inserts the establishment of an Islamic state as part of their goals. PAS tok guru Nik Aziz has also rebuked Karpal Singh telling the DAP chairman that DAP could leave Pakatan Rakyat.

Thus the Kelantan PAS deputy information chief's announcement is impossible to believe. Either that, he is clueless to his own party's agenda or is starting to defy his party superiors. Both ways, they do not not bode well for the electorate who would be at the receiving end.

Define "population" percentage not pragmatic

Emphasizing the reasons stated above, I reiterate: Ahmad's remarks that "states where the population is mixed and non-Muslims make up almost half the population, we do not need to (implement hudud)" is impossible to believe.

Going by Ahmad's logic, PAS would thus have to place a figure on a state population's percentage for hudud before its enforcement; and once the state has reached that population ratio of Muslims and non-Muslims, make the announcement and enforce.

If Ahmad were to give a target percentage of Muslim and non-Muslim population which accounts for PAS hudud's enforcement, maintaining such figures is impractical considering that Malaysians move interstate to work or invest in. Also, employees and investors who feel jittery over PAS hudud's implementation may also have to move again, thereby accentuating Ahmad's illogical reasoning of using population to compel PAS hudud law because the percentage would change each time for such a situation.

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