

DAP Grassroots Should Highlight Pitfalls Of PAS Hudud
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It becomes increasingly apparent that more and more DAP top guns are prepared to supercede their chairman Karpal Singh by accepting PAS hudud law.

The latest acknowledgement by the Rocket Deputy Chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw that DAP respects hudud law and will not dispute that (The Mole, 16 Aug 12) comes at the heels of the reconciliatory gesture by Zhairil Khir Johari, political secretary to the Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng who had earlier stated that DAP is always ready to muzakarah with PAS on any issue especially hudud (The Mole, 13 Aug 12).

While Karpal has argued that the Federal Constitution does not permit the implementation of PAS hudud law, we must note that PAS President Hadi Awang has already pressed the idea of rewriting the supreme law of the land to read "Islam is Addin (way of life)" should PAS capture Putrajaya.

DAP leaders want to replace PKR and be second in command in Pakatan

Thus, it is regrettable that more and more DAP echelon are ostracizing their chairman in not supporting his stand, and even worse, disputing his objection by extending olive branches to the Islamist party.

Perhaps DAP big wigs hope to curry favours with PAS, in view of the chasm sprouted between PAS Youth and PKR Youth when the latter had publicly opposed PAS' brand of hudud law, in contrast with PKR ketua umum Anwar Ibrahim who has voiced support for these hardline religion-based criminal code in his personal capacity.

DAP grassroots must take up responsibility where supremos neglected

All DAP members should take the stand that there should be no discussion on hudud at all, period. While Guan Eng has reneged on his own words uttered on 3 June 2006 of not returning to Barisan Alternatif should PAS stick with its plan to establish an Islamic state, we urge Rocket grassroots members not to ape DAP leaders by desisting and resisting the alliance with PAS.

DAP grassroots should follow MCA's example in fervently rejecting PAS through informing their members that hacking off limbs or 80 lashes for fornication are not the mere basis of worry, since DAP's higher league has failed to do so.

Pitfalls of PAS hudud law

As observed in Arab states, Afghanistan, Sudan or in villages in Pakistan and Bangladesh where hardline interpretation of religion is practised be it by the state or a tribal council, everyone irrespective of faith adhered to is impeded as all are subjected to theocratic interpretation of the penal code which covers all facets of daily life.

Women are severely oppressed as ultra-conservative interpretation of hudud denies female gender equality, guilt is assumed through association, hearsay, education or centuries-old

cultural performances outlawed.

Closer to home, Kelantan after 22 years of PAS rule remains the poorest state in the peninsular with the lowest FDIs while tourists refrain from visiting. As it is, non-Muslim proprietors have been issued summons when their Muslim staff donned three-quarter length sleeves deemed indecent. PAS-helmed Kedah looks destined to follow suit.

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