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'Pas won't abandon Islamic state goal'

PARTY CONSTITUTION: We are merely upholding our political struggle, says syura council member

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PAS will not be swayed from its objective of implementing hudud despite strong objections by its DAP ally.

Pas syura council member Datuk Dr Mahfodz Mohamed said DAP's views on hudud and the Islamic state was a non-issue for Pas.

"We are merely upholding our political struggle based on our party's constitution," he said.

Mahfodz was commenting on reports of DAP chairman Karpal Singh's renewed criticisms against Pas for its insistence on implementing hudud once the opposition coalition takes over the administration in Putrajaya.

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Karpal had on Thursday, slammed Pas for failing to be "realistic" in its pursuit to implement hudud in the country.

Calling it a "matter of regret", Karpal criticised Pas secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali, who was reported as saying that Pas would not drop the idea of implementing hudud even if it might not be part of the opposition's *Buku Jingga* election manifesto.

Mahfodz said the party had never intended to drop its goal of setting up an Islamic state and this was something DAP should be aware of.

He said despite the *Buku Jingga* not mentioning hudud, its framework adhered to the Federal Constitution.

Hudud refers to the class of punishments for certain crimes that

include theft, fornication and adultery, consumption of alcohol or other intoxicants, and apostasy.

"Though *Buku Jingga* does not mention the matter (hudud and Islamic state), it does acknowledge that Islam is the official religion of the Federation," said Mahfodz.

"Therefore, based on any interpretation, Islam is the religion of the Federation. Constitutionally, this could be interpreted in many ways."

Mahfodz, who is the former head of Universiti Malaya's Islamic Studies Department, said interpretations of Islam's position based on the Constitution had been discussed in the past.

"For instance, the late Professor Tan Sri Ahmad Ibrahim and late former Lord President Tun Mo-



DAP chairman Karpal Singh says it's a 'matter of regret' that Pas won't drop the Islamic state struggle



Pas syura council member Datuk Dr Mahfodz Mohamed says it's DAP's right to disagree with Pas

hamed Suffian Hashim have had different interpretations of Islam being the religion of the Federation.

Mahfodz said Ahmad, a prominent academician, had written a paper entitled "Islam's Position in Malaysia's Constitution", which recommended that despite the Federal Constitution not being an Islamic state constitution, it could be applied to ensure it did not

contradict Islam's teachings, which included the implementation of hudud.

Mahfodz nonetheless said, if DAP leaders wanted to take a stand against hudud, then it was their right.

"The big issue now should be about us (the opposition coalition) taking over power and any form of disagreement should not be entertained for now," he added.