

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	26/7/2012

Islamic state aim not negotiable, says Nik Aziz

HUMANE: Some punishments, like hanging, crueller than hudud, says Pas leader

NS7-26/7/2012

SULAIMAN JAAFAR
KOTA BARU
news@nst.com.my

PAS is hardening its stance on the setting up of an Islamic state and implementation of hudud in response to claims by its DAP ally that the party had abandoned such aspirations.

Pas spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat yesterday insisted that those aspirations were the party's religious obligation and therefore non-negotiable.

Nik Aziz, who is Kelantan menteri besar, also brushed aside suggestions that Pas need to abandon such intentions if it wanted to maintain its welfare state manifesto, which had been endorsed by its DAP and Parti Keadilan Rakyat allies

He said the establishment of an Islamic state was not a political objective but a religious obligation, which was of higher priority for Pas.

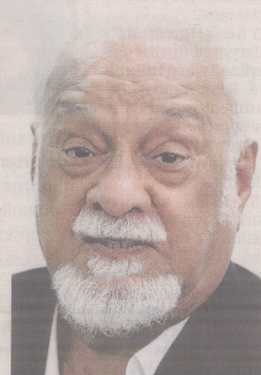
"There is no need for me to repeat it as it is nothing new and almost everybody knows it. Pas cannot avoid from implementing anything connected to Islam whether in the economy, social sphere or Islamic law.

"If DAP cannot accept it, we cannot do anything. The debate over this issue will not end," he said at his office yesterday.

Nik Aziz was responding to a statement by DAP chairman Karpal Singh who had asked him and Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi



Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat says hudud is for Muslims and not non-Muslims



Karpal Singh demanded for a clarification following his spat with several Pas leaders on hudud

Awang to reaffirm the party's position on the Islamic state and hudud.

Karpal had said the two leaders should allay the fears of non-Muslims by reasserting publicly the positions they took on June 3 and 8 last year that the party would carry on with the welfare state manifesto.

Karpal had demanded for the clarification following his spat with several Pas leaders on the matter.

A strong opponent of hudud, Karpal had reacted angrily when Pas Youth chief Nasrudin Hassan Tantawi suggested that he was willing to discuss the implementation of the Islamic law in the

than hudud.

Hudud is a term used in syariah to describe the class of punishment for certain crimes such as theft, fornication and adultery, consumption of alcohol and other intoxicants and apostasy.

"Malaysia has laws that provides for death by hanging and hundreds of people have been hanged.

"Hanging leads to wives to losing their husbands and children their fathers and families lose those who they depend on," he said.

"Hudud does not lead to death, only the hand is chopped off and it is done only after a list of conditions are fulfilled.

"Hanging is more cruel but nobody protests.

"So, if people can accept hanging, why is it so difficult to accept hudud?"

Nik Aziz also said hudud was for Muslims and not non-Muslims, who, however, could opt to be judged under syariah

He said he had explained the issue many years ago and that it was more important, especially for the Chinese, to accept hudud as many of them were richer than the Malays, thus making them more at risks to theft and robbery.

Asked if the stand meant that Pas was ditching its welfare state manifesto, Nik Aziz said a welfare state did not mean that it only gave handouts.

"Acting against thefts, robberies and corruption is also part of the welfare concept. It covers everything," he said.