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Hudud only if there is consensus: Mustafa

> PAS sec-gen affirms need for democratic process in the law's implementation

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KUALA LUMPUR: PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali has affirmed that any move to implement hudud (Islamic criminal punishment) law in Malaysia needs to first obtain consensus of the people and a two-thirds majority support in Parliament.

Seeking to placate concerns that the party is intent on pushing for the law in the face of objections from other Pakatan Rakyat component parties, he stressed that it cannot be imposed without due democratic process.

"It must go through the democratic process," Mustafa said in a joint press conference after attending a PR council of

secretaries meeting here yesterday.

"The legislation (on hudud) has only been approved in Terengganu and Kelantan, this is because they (the states) have obtained the two-thirds majority at state level," he added.

Also present were PKR vice-presidents Tian Chua Chang and Nurul Izzah Anwar, and DAP international secretary Liew Chin Tong.

Mustafa's clarification was in reaction to MCA Youth chief Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong's challenge to non-Muslim DAP and PKR leaders to state their stand on the matter.

Wee had reportedly said that PAS spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and party president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang were forced to "lie low" after an exchange through the press between DAP chairman Karpal Singh and PAS Youth chief Nasrudin Hassan Tantawi.

Karpal had on July 23 admonished Nasrudin for calling for hudud to be implemented. He had urged PAS leaders to focus on its welfare

state concept endorsed by both PR and DAP.

Tian Chua said should the issue become serious, the coalition would be ready to hold a discussion led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

Liew said the implementation of hudud is not within PR's common policy framework.

Mustafa also said PR is concerned about the federal government setting the theme "Janji DiTepati" (Promises Fulfilled) - the same election campaign slogan used by Barisan Nasional - in conjunction with this year's official Merdeka Day celebrations.

He said if the government does not change the theme in a week, PR will propose a more "inclusive" theme in the spirit of the celebration.

On the High Court decision yesterday to quash Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein's declaration of Bersih 2.0 being an unlawful society, he said it reflected the court had upheld justice.

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