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NEWS

'Pas alone cannot implement hudud'

NEED TO TAKE A STANCE: Issue has never been discussed by parties in Pakatan, says Karpal Singh

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DAP chairman Karpal Singh has called for an urgent meeting of Pakatan Rakyat leaders to decide "once and for all" the issue of Pas implementing hudud in Malaysia.

"Pas does not have the support of DAP and neither does it have the support of Parti Keadilan Rakyat to implement hudud.

"For Hadi (Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang) to speak on behalf of Pakatan is misleading."

Karpal also accused Hadi and Pas Dewan Ulama chief Datuk Harun Taib of sabotaging a decision taken at the party's own *muktamar* last year where it was announced that Pas was giving up its Islamic state agenda in favour of a welfare state concept.

The veteran politician said as the general election was just around the corner, the Pakatan leadership could not just sit back and let the hudud issue drag on.

"We need to sort out this issue immediately.

"I am, therefore, proposing that all Pakatan leaders meet and decide once and for all this hudud issue," he said here yesterday.

Karpal, the only opposition leader who has consistently voiced out against Pas' hudud agenda, said it was "unfortunate" that Hadi had been making statements which could damage Pakatan's prospects of taking over Putrajaya at this critical stage.

He said the hudud issue had never been discussed by the parties in Pakatan and "for Hadi to say that Pakatan will implement hudud is a mischievous statement indeed".

"There has been no meeting whatsoever to endorse the plan. In any event, Pas also cannot on its own introduce hudud."

Karpal also slammed the statement made by Harun that the implementation of hudud and amendment to the Federal Constitution would be Pas' priorities even if it meant changing its political partners.

Harun was quoted as saying that

Pas would implement hudud and amend the Constitution even if it was not with the current partners the party had in Pakatan.

"Maybe, there will be other pacts that will lend us their support," he was quoted as saying.

Responding to this, Karpal said Harun had made a "very mischievous" statement, especially about changing partners.

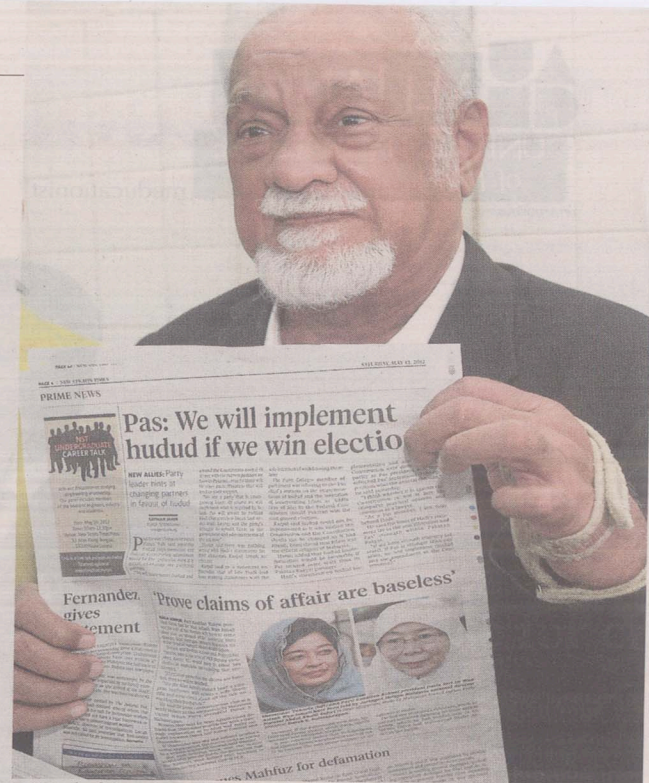
He said Pas had already decided at its *muktamar* last year that the party had given up its aim to turn Malaysia into an Islamic state in favour of a welfare state concept.

"The decision has already been taken.

"I cannot understand why Pas president and Harun Taib are now sabotaging the decision taken by the highest decision-making body in their own party."

It was reported last year that Pas was gearing up for the 13th general election by sidelining its long-time quest to set up an Islamic state, which is deemed controversial to its Pakatan partners.

Hadi was then quoted as saying that the party would not harp on



DAP chairman Karpal Singh showing a statement made by Pas in relation to the implementation of hudud, carried by the 'New Straits Times', at a press conference in Air Itam, Penang, yesterday. Pic by Asman Ibrahim

the matter as it was not yet time to implement the concept.

"Also, in the Quran there is no mention about Islamic state but there is a mention of a welfare state," he was reported to have said after opening the 57th Pas *muk-*

tamar at the party's premises in Taman Melewar in June last year.

However, Hadi seems to have made an about turn now and has recently again started speaking about implementing hudud if Pakatan wrests Putrajaya.