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Hudud – a thorn for Pakatan

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PETALING JAYA: The thorny issue of hudud continues to bug Pakatan Rakyat, with its leaders making contradictory statements.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang claimed it was a non-issue while DAP chairman Karpal Singh stopped short of asking the former to shut up until the coalition thrashes out the issue.

Hadi wants Karpal to stop harping on hudud and focus on their common goal while Karpal wants Hadi to stop making statements on the con-

tentious issue on behalf of the coalition.

"That (hudud) can wait for after we come to power. We are not in power yet. It is a non-issue at this point," the PAS president said.

Hadi said this following uproar among PAS leaders over Karpal's order to him to stop making statements on behalf of the coalition.

The PAS president said Karpal should focus on issues of common interest such as poverty and other challenges in the run-up to the next

general election.

On PAS ulama chief Datuk Harun Taib's threat to pull out of the coalition if their existing partners did not agree on hudud, Hadi said the party was committed to Pakatan Rakyat.

"We should focus on issues of common interest that have been agreed upon such as poverty eradication, justice, Islam as the federal religion, the Malay privilege, protecting the rights of others, and the constitutional monarch," he said.

PAS and DAP leaders still squabbling over issue

Hadi said they should embrace differences of opinion and focus on a common goal to avoid any rift.

In Butterworth, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said it would not accept any discussion about Pakatan Rakyat's common manifesto.

Lim said any discussion on the matter had to be based on agreed common principles acceptable to all three parties in Pakatan.

He said any attempt by any party leader within Pakatan to make state-

ments that were contrary to the agreed principles was akin to backstabbing each other.

He was replying to Harun's comment that his party would not budge from its stand to instil Islamic values in the country's administration if Pakatan forms the Federal Government.

Lim said PAS' Islamic state policy was never agreed to by all the three parties in Pakatan.

He said this to reporters after attending the groundbreaking ceremony for a voluntary fire fighter centre at Jalan Raja Uda here yesterday.