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PAS won't budge on hudud

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Remarks suggest party will never give up on Islamic law

PETALING JAYA: Recent remarks by PAS leaders and officials in the run-up to the May 5 general election, showed the party had not lost sight of its Islamic state agenda and its goal to impose syariah laws in the country.

Back in November last year, party president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang had also told delegates at its 58th annual *muktamar* (general assembly) that while PAS had "softened" its approach so as not to offend its non-Muslim allies in the Pakatan Rakyat, it had not entirely abandoned its plan to punish Muslims under *hudud* if they break the law.

On Wednesday, PAS deputy spiritual leader Datuk Dr Haron Din said *hudud* would be implemented if Pakatan Rakyat came to power.

Rallying to his support, Terengganu PAS deputy information chief Azman Shapawi Abdul Rani said the party had planned to implement *hudud* since more than 50 years ago.

Reinforcing this stand, PAS Ulama Council chief Datuk Harun Taib said the party's dream of implementing *hudud* would become a reality if the Pakatan coalition came into power.

"We have never detracted from our stand of enforcing it.

"If Pakatan takes over the federal government, I do not see why we cannot implement the law," he reportedly said.

Also recently, PAS spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat was reported as saying the current government, which is of a secular nature, should be replaced by an Islamic administration.

He added that only political parties that embrace Islam in its struggle can make it safe

for the people "in this world and the hereafter."

Situations of what could happen under PAS rule had been reflected in various incidents and instances in recent times that had caused much restlessness in the non-Muslim community.

For instance, last November, hairdressers in Kota Baru were banned from cutting the hair of customers not of the same gender, even though neither side are Muslims.

There was a nationwide hue and cry against the decision and the municipal council had to withdraw the regulation.

At about the same time, the presence of PAS leaders at a DAP-organised dinner in Telemong, a small Chinese village in Bentong, caused the organisers to cancel a performance by a female singer said to be "indecently" dressed.

Earlier, in August, the Selangor government had to step in to revoke a district council gender segregation order for unmarried Muslim couples watching movies at the sole cinema in Kuala Selangor.

In February the same year, PAS leaders and members objected to plans to build a cinema in Bangi, claiming that it could lead to vice activities as there could be movies that were not in line with Islamic and Eastern values.

In 2009, Selangor PAS wanted to implement a blanket ban on the sale of alcohol in all Muslim-majority areas in the state.

The plan was crushed, leading to the revamp of the state Islamic affairs committee and the sacking of state executive councillor Datuk Hasan Ali, the then state PAS chief.

Just before the Chinese New Year celebrations early this year, the state authorities in

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PAS-led Kedah issued an order to bar performances by female dancers and singers in public places, including at shopping malls.

Again there was an uproar, which led to the authorities quashing the order.

As far back as 1995, PAS talked about gender segregation in cinemas where men and women are not allowed to sit next to each other.