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PM: Govt **never** rejected hudud

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> Restraints, issues must be tackled before it can be implemented

ALOR STAR: The government has never rejected hudud as Allah's law, but there are so many issues that need to be resolved before the law can be fully implemented in the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

He said many restraints and issues must be scrutinised and tackled first before hudud can be implemented without affecting its objectives.

"There is a big difference between rejecting hudud and not implementing it due to various restraints and issues.

"That's why we need ulama among the *mujtahid* (Islamic scholar competent in interpreting syariah by *ijtihad* or independent reasoning) to scrutinise and to exercise *ijtihad* so that justice can be served," he said when officiating at the closing of the Ijtimak Pondok Malaysia 2014 programme, here yesterday.

He said the government lauds the calls by some quarters to

implement hudud law in the country, but it must also take into consideration other aspects towards practising the true teachings of Islam.

Najib said before implementing hudud, the Muslim community must be mentally prepared in terms of

understanding and observing the law.

"The same goes with the non-Muslim community, it must be given the opportunity to understand the Islamic law clearly and comprehensively so that there will be no misunderstanding about the teachings of Islam," he said.

He said the government will remain *istiqamah* (firm in the path of Allah) to uphold Islam and to practise the concept of *wasatiyyah* (moderation) which stresses on justice, excellence and balance.

"The government is also committed to implementing the principles of Maqasid Syariah in the national administration system (to meet the foundations of the faith, life, lineage, intellect and property).

"As a Samawi religion, *syariat* (law) and *akidah* (faith) are the main thrusts of Islam. The *syariat* is Allah's guide to mankind in facing social and political challenges, as well as in discharging our duties as Allah's humble *khalifah* (stewards) on earth. This includes the controversial hudud," he added. -

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