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Reports by YUEN MEIKENG, RAHIMY RAHIM and CHRISTINE CHEAH

Dr M: Don't misuse religion

The Star - 7/5/2014

Hudud issue should not be used to win votes, says former PM

PETALING JAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad regrets what he sees as the use of religion to gain political mileage in the hudud issue.

In a report by a news portal, he said religion should be used to administer religious laws among the Muslims but it was "regrettable" when it was used to win votes.

Dr Mahathir said the PAS' hudud issue would not split Barisan Nasional even though MCA opposed

the party's proposal to impose Islamic law in Kelantan.

"Umno believes in hudud as found in the Quran. However, when it is used by a political party, they're bound to interpret it in a biased manner.

"That political party's interpretation of hudud is something I don't think Umno or anybody else can accept," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the national-level hudud technical committee

should be made up of religious leaders who are politically neutral to avoid any attempt to use hudud to "win votes".

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang is expected to move a Private Member's Bill at the Dewan Rakyat next month to pave the way for PAS' hudud to be implemented in Kelantan.

The proposal has been strongly opposed by DAP, which is PAS' ally in Pakatan Rakyat, and parties in

Barisan Nasional including MCA, MIC and Gerakan.

On April 24, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Federal Government had never rejected the implementation of PAS' hudud but there were loopholes that needed to be addressed before it could be done.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was reported to have suggested that a hudud technical committee be formed.