

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	5 APRIL 2015

Dr M: PAS' hudud not Islamic

the star - 5/4/2015

It's for political reasons, say former PM

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CYBERJAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has criticised PAS' plan to implement the hudud law in Kelantan, calling it unIslamic and politically motivated.

He said as a multi-racial country, hudud was not viable for Malaysia.

"The common law is there to uphold justice. I always believe when you uphold justice, than you are upholding the principles of Islam," he said.

He also explained that Islamic law promoted justice but the hudud law proposed by PAS, which excludes the non-Muslims from punishment, was not just.

"In the Quran there are 43 verses that say that when you judge, you must judge with justice. But PAS' hudud only applies to Muslims. If a Muslim and a non-Muslim were caught for robbery, the Muslim will get his hand chopped off while the non-Muslim



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only goes to jail.

"Tell me how is that fair? If it is not fair, it is not Islamic," said Dr Mahathir when responding to a question fielded by a participant of the What Youth Should Know leadership conference organised by MCA Youth here, yesterday.

He added that the punishment of stoning

was not in the Quran and not compassionate.

"The Quran does not propose stoning people to death. But in the *hadiths*, there have been two cases where there were stoning. But both of those cases were unique," he added.

He said when Muslim start every action with *Bismillah hir-Rahman nir-Rahim*, which means In the name of Allah, the most compassionate, and as such, it would not be compassionate to stone people to death.

Dr Mahathir also said PAS' intention in wanting to implement hudud was only to fish for votes and not strictly because of Islam.

"If politics is their intention, than the hudud they are trying to implement is no longer Islamic," he added.

On Kelantan Umno assemblymen who also voted for the Bill last month, Dr Mahathir said, they did not even know what

they were supporting.

Ini Miri, the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party president Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing said Barisan Nasional has decided that it would oppose the implementation of hudud law.

The matter, he said, was discussed and decided at the last Barisan supreme council meeting and also during the meeting between Najib as Barisan's chairman with all component parties on Mar 19.

He said the decision was based on the fact that the implementation of hudud would be contrary to the Federal Constitution.

"We have reached a consensus to oppose the implementation of hudud and we are united in our stand," he said.

Tiong also lambasted the DAP for not having the guts to break away from Pakatan Rakyat when its partner PAS decided to go ahead with its hudud plan.

He said the move by Sarawak DAP to sever its ties with PAS means nothing as the party was still part of Pakatan at the national level.