

Abim wants Soi Lek to say sorry over hudud remarks

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By Lisa J. Ariffin

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 — The Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement (Abim) today urged Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek to apologise to all Muslims in the country following his remarks on hudud.

Dr Chua had predicted investors would flee Malaysia if hudud was made federal law, saying hudud was not fair to everyone, in particular women, and that it also prescribed cruel punishments for crimes contrary to international convention.

"Abim is disappointed at his (Dr Chua's) failure to learn and understand Islam as a whole, as well as disappointed at the failure of the concerned parties to provide him a proper understanding of Islam," Abim general-secretary Monamad Raimi Rahim said in a press statement.

"This statement by (Dr Chua) serves as a continuation of a rapidly growing sentiment of Islamophobia around the world," he added.

Raimi said Abim denounces the remarks by Dr Chua, who had ridiculed hudud at the "Hudud and its implications on non-Muslims" forum held yesterday.

"Abim views his remarks as malicious and superficial in nature that can lead to undesirable political and religious tensions," he said.

"This is because hudud law, and Islam as a whole, teaches respect and upholds human rights."

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