

**Opposition Leaders To Meet On Wednesday Over Hudud
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- The top leaders of the opposition pact comprising PKR, DAP and Pas will meet this Wednesday to discuss Pas' plan to implement hudud law, said Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution.

He said the issue would be discussed among the opposition leaders at their monthly meeting at the PAS headquarters, here, which is scheduled to begin at 8pm.

"The meeting was initially for us to discuss the 2012 Budget, but since there are other issues that need to be addressed, it is only appropriate for the leaders to discuss them during the meeting," he told Bernama, here, Sunday.

He was responding to the call by DAP national chairman Karpal Singh on Saturday for the opposition party leaders to hold an emergency meeting to discuss and resolve Pas' plan to implement hudud.

Karpal said DAP would always oppose the establishment of an Islamic state, thus the Pakatan Rakyat's secretariat should arrange for an urgent meeting to address the issue.

Meanwhile, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng today reiterated Karpal's statement that DAP never accepted hudud or the idea of setting up an Islamic state if they gained power to Putrajaya.

"Our position is clear, we do not accept hudud and neither do we accept an Islamic state," he said when opening the Federal Territory DAP's annual convention, here, Sunday.

Lim said implementing hudud law or establishing an Islamic state was never mentioned in Pakatan's Orange Book (Buku Jingga), and the parties had only agreed to unite under common principles such as freedom, justice and democracy.

"We are a party of principles and leaders of principles. So, those leaders who say that after taking over Putrajaya, they will implement hudud and set up an Islamic state...no way. There is no possibility of this because it is not a common policy framework," he said.

In KLANG, Malaysia Makkal Sakti Party president Datuk R.S. Thanenthiran said Pas' plan to implement hudud was unacceptable in the country's modern, plural society.

He said although the party was not against Islamic laws in principle, the implementation of hudud needed to be based on realities.

"In Malaysia, our supreme law is the Federal Constitution and other laws must comply with the constitution and it's more than enough to safeguard everyone regardless of race and religion," he told Bernama when attending a football tournament organised by the party at Kota Raja Stadium.

In KOTA BAHARU, however, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said the Pas state government would ensure that hudud would be implemented in the state through the syariah court system.

He said the state government was drawing up the Syariah Criminal Law Enactment (II) 1993 (Hudud law).

"When ready, the hudud law can be used as a guideline for the (syariah court) judges and they know what to do.

"The hudud law is actually not cruel and it will serve more as a lesson," he said after launching the Kelantan Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen's Day at the Sultan Muhammed IV Stadium grounds, here, today.

The Pas spiritual leader, however, did not say when hudud could be implemented in the Kelantan syariah courts.

Nik Aziz also reiterated that he was prepared to see DAP leave the opposition pact if it disagreed with the hudud plan, and that he would not be attending the opposition pact's meeting this Wednesday for health reason.

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