

**PR' hudud gag order unfair to the people**  
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**By Lisa J. Ariffin**

KUALA LUMPUR — Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) gag order on the recent hudud issue is unfair to the people and won't solve the problem, MCA today said.

"Every time there is a problem, by issuing a gag order, this does not solve fundamental issues," MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek told reporters today following the MCA presidential meeting here.

"We cannot allow any political party to solve problems with a gag order, especially a party that stresses democracy and freedom of information," he added.

Dr Chua (picture) said as a party that preaches transparency, accountability, and information freedom, PR must make their stand known on hudud as it was a fundamental issue.

"If they come into power, are they going to lift the gag order and implement hudud?" he asked.

"This will be very unfair to the people," he added.

Dr Chua also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had made ruling coalition Barisan Nasional's stand on hudud clear.

"I would like to thank the PM for saying outright that now is not a suitable time to implement hudud. BN does not issue gag orders, this is true democracy," he said.

Hudud is a prickly subject in multicultural Malaysia where race and religion are closely linked.

The issue is raised cyclically as political fodder as its divisive nature often causes conflicts to occur within otherwise-friendly circles, making it an ideal tactic to pit parties with opposing ideologies against one another.

PR de factor leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said last week that he backs hudud in Kelantan, saying it does not infringe on non-Muslims' rights and causing the dispute to escalate further.

Anwar also moved to rebuke Barisan Nasional (BN) for purportedly exploiting hudud to gain political traction as national polls nears.

Najib had pledged that his administration would block any attempt to implement the Islamic penal law, in a bid to curtail further debate on the fractious subject.

Najib's deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, however, expressed support for hudud earlier this week, upsetting Umno's Chinese partner, MCA.

Dr Chua has threatened withdraw his party from the ruling coalition if senior ally, Umno,

goes ahead with enforcing hudud. Gerakan has also expressed the same threat.

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