

PAS veep says hudud 'impossible' for now
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Soi Lek doesn't get Umno's hudud stand, says Muhyiddin
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BANGI, Sept 23 — MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek's threat to pull his party out of Barisan Nasional (BN) if hudud law is passed shows he does not understand Umno's stand on the issue, the deputy prime minister has said.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Umno has always been clear that it supports hudud in principle but cannot enact the Islamic laws as Malaysia was not ready for them yet.

"I believe perhaps Datuk Chua Soi Lek doesn't understand (Umno's) true stand (on hudud)," he told reporters at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia here.

Muhyiddin (picture) said hudud was not an issue within the ruling coalition as Umno's and PAS's respective positions on the law were as different as "earth and sky", and urged Dr Chua to instead train his gaze on the Islamist party's bid to introduce hudud law in Kelantan.

He added that the Chinese community should not fall victim to suspicions that Umno wished to implement hudud law arising from Dr Chua's ultimatum.

The MCA leader earlier today threatened to pull his party out of the ruling coalition if Umno enacted hudud laws, stressing that the MCA strongly objected to such laws.

He had been responding to Muhyiddin, who said yesterday that Umno cannot reject hudud as it was part and parcel of Islam.

Muhyiddin, who is also Umno deputy president, however stressed that it was not yet time to introduce such laws to multi-racial and multi-religious Malaysia.

Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has backed the introduction of hudud in Kelantan, which he said would not infringe upon non-Muslims' rights.

But the PKR de facto leader stressed that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) had not discussed the matter and that this was only his personal opinion.

Kelantan Mentri Besar and PAS spiritual leader Datuk Seri Nik Aziz Nik Mat has challenged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to withdraw any objections Putrajaya has to PAS's longstanding plans to enact hudud laws in the state.

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