

MCA silent on hudud committee because it is desperate for government posts, says Guan Eng
Malaysian Insider
May 4, 2014
By Eileen Ng

Is the MCA so desperate for government posts that it has remained silent on Putrajaya's intention to set up a joint committee with PAS and the Kelantan state government to look into the implementation of hudud in the east coast state, asked the DAP.

In castigating the senior Chinese party in the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said since March 27, MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai had failed to criticise Umno – the lynchpin of BN – and its leaders for their tacit approval in the proposed implementation of the Shariah criminal law.

This is in spite of a declaration by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in September 2011 that the government would not enforce hudud in Malaysia, causing Lim to accuse Najib of flip flopping from his administration's previous stand to the current public lauding of PAS's hudud proposal.

"Clearly the fear of not getting any government posts from Najib has caused Liow to panic," he said in a statement today.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom had recently said that a central technical committee comprising PAS, Putrajaya and the Kelantan government would look into the implementation of hudud, adding that the panel was aimed at ensuring a smooth implementation of the law while taking into consideration the wellbeing and justice for Muslims as well as provisions under the Federal Constitution.

MCA had fared badly in the 13th general election, winning only seven parliamentary and 11 state seats.

As a result, the party decided against taking up government posts but earlier this year, the decision was overturned by members at an extraordinary general meeting.

Yesterday, Najib had welcomed MCA's decision to return to the government but said that the timing would be determined later at an unspecified date.

Lim stressed that the country could not have two different legal systems, and cited former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as saying that Muslims in Malaysia are not ready for hudud and that it would not be fair to have different penalties for Muslims and non-Muslims for the same criminal offence.

The Penang chief minister also accused MCA and its Chinese-majority partners such as Gerakan and Sarawak United Peoples' Party (SUPP), as well as other pro-BN Chinese organisations, of making a "grand play" of having emergency meetings to demand for a dialogue with the Kelantan state government.

"MCA, Gerakan, SUPP and some pro-BN Chinese organisations are playing a double-faced game of pinning the blame on PAS and Pakatan, especially DAP, when it is Umno that is the main culprit in instigating PAS to work with Umno to implement hudud in Kelantan," he said.

As such, Lim said the parties and organisations should have dialogues with Putrajaya to demand that Umno drop their support for hudud and stop instigating PAS.

DAP had always been against the implementation of hudud in Malaysia, with its late leader Karpal Singh arguing that it was against the Federal Constitution and national interests.

The issue flared up again recently when PAS announced plans this month to introduce two private members' bills in Parliament to allow it to implement hudud in Kelantan.

This triggered an exchange of words between Deputy Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah and DAP's national organising secretary Anthony Loke.

Nik Amar had ticked off its Pakatan Rakyat partners that they had "no right to interfere" in the Islamist party's plan to implement hudud in the east coast state, causing Loke to tell PAS to leave Pakatan if it was adamant about going ahead with its plan.

With no end in sight over the issue, opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had pleaded for more time for Pakatan to discuss the matter. – May 4, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/mca-silent-on-hudud-committee-because-it-is-desperate-for-government-posts>