

Sabah BN to state stand on hudud after studying PAS bill
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Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties will only state their stand on PAS's proposed hudud bill after scrutinising it, state BN secretary Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan said today.

He said the BN parties in Sabah were still in the dark over the contents of the private member's bill, which, if passed in Parliament, would allow the Kelantan government to enforce the controversial Islamic criminal law in the state.

"I am the secretary of BN Sabah, and even among our component parties, we will have to respond to it (the hudud bill) when it's crystallised," Rahman said after attending the World Fire Fighters' Day 2014 celebrations in Dataran Merdeka.

"Right now we don't know the contents of the private bill that is going to be submitted to Parliament.

"So once PAS comes out with it, we will scrutinise every sentence, every word, every comma and then we can have a better understanding of what exactly the private bill is about."

The Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government minister and Kota Belud MP said Sabah BN would have "extensive discussions" over the issue, given the many component parties in the state.

"I don't think hudud has been discussed in earnest with component parties (MCA and MIC) yet either," he added.

He was responding to a question from the media whether Umno had discussed the hudud issue with its allies in BN as well as the opposition.

Last week, MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai had urged fellow BN parties to oppose "PAS's hudud" as it goes against the Federal Constitution.

He reminded BN that any decision made by the ruling coalition must be based on consensus, after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had said that the government had never rejected hudud.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom had also said that a central technical committee comprising PAS, Putrajaya and the Kelantan government would look into the implementation of the Shariah criminal law.

Jamil Khir had said the committee 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.

The issue flared up again recently when PAS announced plans 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 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 to the controversy, opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has pleaded for more time for Pakatan to discuss the matter. – May 4 2014.