

Pas To Postpone Tabling Private Member's Bill On Hudud
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By Jamilah Kamarudin

PAS has decided to postpone the tabling of a private member's bill in Parliament, which is scheduled to sit again in June.

The decision was announced by party president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, who said the postponement was to give sufficient time to a joint Putrajaya and Kelantan government technical committee to study the implementation of the Kelantan Shariah Penal Code II.

"The proposal to table the private member's bill in the Dewan Rakyat in June will not go ahead as scheduled."

Hadi's statement was read by PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu at a press conference at the party headquarters in Kuala Lumpur today.

During the PAS central committee meeting, the party also agreed that the technical committee should be chaired by Deputy Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom will supervise the technical committee under the auspices of the Malaysian Islamic Development Department.

Although PAS has decided to postpone the tabling of the private member's bill, Mohamad said the party was determined to implement hudud.

"It is now up to the technical committee which will hold discussions with the Kelantan government and Putrajaya."

Mohamad said the issue was a serious one as this was a committee which dealt between the federal and state governments.

He added that neither PKR nor DAP have been informed about PAS's decision nor was there any need to.

"They should know about it once the media reports it," he said.

Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob had during the last meeting of Parliament revealed that the state intended to table a private member's bill to allow the implementation of hudud.

The bill would enable the Kelantan Shariah Penal Code II, which was passed in 1993 by the state assembly, to be enforced.

"A private member's bill will be tabled to amend the Shariah Court Act (Jurisdiction) 1965 so that it will give a wider scope to punish according to the Hudud Enactment," he said.

Ahmad's announcement followed an assurance from Jamil Khir that Putrajaya would back the state's move to implement hudud.

The state government had made the decision because a significant part of hudud crimes like theft, robbery, rape, causing hurt and murder come under the federal government as stipulated in the Penal Code, as well as enforcement agencies, such as the police and prisons.

The Kelantan government also said it was willing to guarantee that, as long as there were no setbacks and Putrajaya gave the green light to both private bills to be tabled and passed in Parliament, the Shariah Criminal Procedure Enactment 1993 would be implemented in Kelantan in 2015 by the latest.

Barisan Nasional also took some flak as its components – MCA and Gerakan – led the charge in opposing the planned bill.

It eventually led to Putrajaya forming the joint technical committee with the Kelantan government to examine all angles of hudud, how it could be implemented in Malaysia, especially in Kelantan. – May 11, 2014.

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