

**Hudud controversy a major factor in Teluk Intan loss, says DAP
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The proposal by PAS to implement hudud in Kelantan is a major contributing factor that prevented Dyana Sofya Mohd Daud from defending the Teluk Intan parliamentary seat in the just concluded by-election, a DAP leader said.

Puchong MP Gobind Singh Deo (pic, right) said while PAS, an ally of DAP and PKR in Pakatan Rakyat, had worked tirelessly throughout the campaign, the Islamist party had stood firm on its decision to push ahead with hudud.

"I am of the view that the controversy around the implementation of hudud by PAS contributed significantly to our loss in Teluk Intan," he said in a statement today.

He said early analysis suggested DAP had lost some 25% of the non-Malay vote, a very significant shift which called for concern.

"No doubt, many pin the cause down to the low voter turnout but there are certainly other factors which need to be considered," he said.

Gobind, who is also DAP national legal bureau chief, said there was even a statement that the hudud bill would be tabled in Parliament in September, notwithstanding DAP's clear objection to it as going against the PR common agenda inked in 2011.

"To my mind, this struck deep in the minds of many voters as many do not support hudud and feel that Malaysia must remain a secular nation," he said.

Gobind said PAS's firm stand could have resulted in a silent protest vote against Pakatan Rakyat.

He said many had also openly expressed their concerns over the push by PAS for hudud, saying that they felt misled into supporting PAS, as they had thought that they were no longer calling for the setting up of an Islamic state.

"Because of this, many expressed reservations over support for PR as that would also be support for PAS and their agenda to implement hudud," he added.

He said DAP had made the right decision in fielding Dyana Sofya in Teluk Intan and that the party workers and supporters had worked tirelessly and done an excellent job throughout the campaign.

"I feel the right political strategies in terms of candidate and future vision alone cannot in itself erase the need for clarity on current issues of public concern such as hudud," he added.

Gobind said it boiled down to the party's ability to move the people and to inspire them.

"We must get back to basics and must be brave to deal with these problems now. If we fail, the consequences will be somewhat disastrous," he added.

Barisan Nasional candidate Datuk Mah Siew Keong, who is also Gerakan president, defeated Dyana Sofya by a slim 238 votes majority on Saturday. – June 3, 2014.

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