

**Hudud plan could spark constitutional crisis, warns former MCA leader**  
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**By Lee Shi-Ian**

Implementing hudud will spell catastrophe for Malaysia and spark a constitutional crisis, a former MCA leader warned today.

Former MCA vice-president Gan Ping Sieu said if the private member's bill was passed in Parliament, the situation would become untenable.

Deputy Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob had announced last month that PAS would propose a private member's bills to pave the way for implementing the Islamic criminal law in the state.

Gan told a press conference at Wisma MCA today that previous prime ministers had always maintained that Malaysia was a secular nation.

"If the bill is passed in Dewan Rakyat, it might be a point of no return," Gan said.

Gan said there were key questions to be answered before hudud was implemented in Kelantan, such as whether it is applicable to Muslims only or people of all faiths.

"Is this regional legislation only applicable in Kelantan or nationwide? Will neighbouring states such as Terengganu, Kedah and Perlis be under pressure to do the same?"

"If hudud does not include non-Muslims, then will Malaysia be a country with two systems, for Muslims and non-Muslims?" he asked, adding that a grave injustice would occur if hudud was passed by Parliament and implemented in Kelantan.

He pointed out that out of the 56 countries in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), only 10 members implement hudud.

"Why is this? Reports and surveys have indicated that these hudud-practising countries are either ruled by a monarchy or well-known for corruption.

"Even after hudud was implemented in these countries, there were no results which showed less corruption or a lower crime rate.

"Instead, the level of illiteracy, abuse of power and corrupt practices increased," he said, adding that hudud was unsuitable for today's contemporary era.

He also cited contemporary local and international Islamic scholars who had called for a moratorium on the implementation of hudud.

"Moderate scholars have argued that the thinking of Caliph Umar should be emulated," he said, referring to Islam's second caliph Umar al-Khattab.

"Caliph Umar had argued that hudud could be suspended if the social context did not permit its implementation to the detriment of justice."

Saying Malaysia was at a historical crossroad, he called on Putrajaya to uphold the Federal Constitution.

"This is the social contract which Malaysians believe in and MCA calls upon moderate Muslims to stand firm on the issue of hudud.

"In the past few years, during MCA roadshows, the party explained to the public, especially non-Muslims, that a strengthened PAS would bring catastrophe to Malaysia."

He said DAP and PKR had "a very good election campaign strategy" by saying that one who does not steal should not fear hudud.

He also called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to maintain his stance of 2011 and 2012, when the latter said Putrajaya would not enforce hudud in Malaysia.

Najib had said in September 2011 that hudud laws could not be implemented in Malaysia as the government had to take into consideration the environment and reality.

Gan added that Barisan Nasional component parties might review their respective positions in the coalition if Umno supported the implementation of hudud.

Yesterday, MCA deputy president Datuk Wee Ka Siong said the party would reconsider its position in BN if Umno was in favour of hudud. – May 8, 2014.

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