

Give us more time, Anwar tells Pakatan as hudud row escalates
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Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has pleaded for more time to allow Pakatan Rakyat to discuss PAS's plan to implement hudud in Kelantan, amid protests from DAP, one of the coalition's partners.

Give us more time for discourse," he said at the press conference at the PKR headquarters today.

He said it is important to build an understanding on the matter and is confident that PAS can be persuaded for a "healthy discourse".

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

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

This triggered a spate of words between Kelantan deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah and DAP's national organising secretary Anthony Loke.

Nik Amar told off its coalition partners that they have "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 is adamant to go ahead with its plan.

Appearing cautious because of the sensitivities involved, Anwar said no one should dismiss or belittle PAS's plans on hudud, which the party had made clear of its intentions all this time.

"Let PAS explain, disagreements should be done respectfully," he said in an apparent reference to the Islamist party's detractors, adding that PAS had started engaging its partners PKR and DAP on this, although it has yet to be discussed by the top leadership.

The Permatang Pauh MP said as of now, Malaysia did not have the right institutions in place to implement hudud, citing the erosion of judicial independence as example.

"Who is going to implement hudud? Are the judges actually impartial? We cannot talk about hudud when the judiciary and the judges are still not independent," he said.

He also cautioned that hudud formed a small part of the entire Shariah, which also encompassed good governance, equality and rule of law.

On another matter, the PKR de facto leader pledged the multiracial party would be transparent in its internal elections, which were ongoing.

Those who had breached election rules would face action, he said.

"We will investigate and cancel polling if there is any negligence or fraud. We will not compromise, no matter who the candidate is." – April 29, 2014.

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