

MIC opts for dialogue, not press statements, with PAS on hudud
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Rather than using press statements to oppose PAS's stance on the hudud, MIC expressed its desire to meet with the Islamist party to discuss the matter, Datuk Seri S. Vell Paari said today.

The party's strategic director said he had sent a request to PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu for a meeting between them.

"The purpose of the meeting is to convey our party's concerns and that of the Indian community over the implementation of hudud," Vell Paari (pic) said in a statement today, adding that the Mohamad Sabu had forwarded the request to PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali.

He expressed his hope that the meeting between MIC and PAS would happen, describing it as similar to a meeting between Israel, Palestine and Hamas.

The hudud row had escalated in recent weeks with DAP's national organising secretary Anthony Loke telling PAS to exit from the Pakatan Rakyat coalition.

MIC is the latest BN component to express its opposition against PAS's plans to implement hudud law in Kelantan.

Vell Paari said Malaysia was a secular state and hudud law would not work in its multiracial society.

He said MIC recognised and understood the fact that hudud was considered to be divine ordained law of Muslims.

"But the question remains on how it can be implemented effectively in a multiracial country," he said.

Vell Paari said if hudud was the law of the land when opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was found guilty of sodomy in 1998, then he would have been stoned to death.

"But since it was criminal law and there was avenue for Anwar to file an appeal, he was later found not guilty and released despite spending a long time in prison."

"The point I am trying to make is that there was an avenue of appeal for Anwar," he said.

"Take for example a thief's hands had been chopped off for theft and it was later discovered that the person was innocent?"

"Can you re-attach the dismembered hand? On the same note, the issue of capital punishment in Malaysia must also be revisited and abolished," Vell Paari said.

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 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.

This caused Loke to tell PAS to leave PR if it is adamant to go ahead with its plan to enforce hudud in Kelantan.

Anwar today pleaded for time to allow PR to discuss PAS's plan to implement hudud in Kelantan, amid firm protests from DAP.

Meanwhile, PAS information chief Datuk Mahfuz Omar asked all quarters to respect the Islamic party's democratic right to present its case in Parliament. – April 29, 2014.

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