

Umno using hudud to break up Pakatan, say PAS insiders
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PAS insiders are blaming Umno for incessantly goading the Islamist party to try to implement hudud, leading to an open spat with its Pakatan Rakyat (PR) allies now.

Former Kelantan exco member and PAS vice-president Datuk Husam Musa told The Malaysian Insider that he believed Umno was trying to break up the PR alliance with the issue, which cropped up in 1990 and in 2001.

"They are determined to get us to fight with DAP. A break-up will naturally benefit Umno as both of us are Muslim parties," he said, without wanting to be drawn further on the consequences of PAS leaving Pakatan.

Husam said he did not think the private member's bill planned for Parliament would go far as Umno had yet to make a stand on the matter.

"To me, the biggest issue here before we go further is to know what is Najib's stand. Will BN support this private bill? If yes, then we can discuss. If not, it is clear that they are just playing with PAS to serve their agenda."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said last week Umno was ready to listen to PAS's proposal regarding the implementation of hudud this year. Previous PAS attempts to table the Islamic law had been frustrated by the Barisan Nasional-dominated Parliament.

"We want to hear from PAS. If they are willing to propose it to us, we are ready to listen," Najib had said, although he cautioned that the people must understand the law before it could be implemented.

Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob recently announced the state's plan to table a private member's bill in Parliament to implement hudud law in the state.

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

Ahmad's announcement closely followed the statement by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom that Putrajaya would back the state's move to implement hudud.

Deputy Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamad Amar Nik Abdullah had said last week the state government did not need the blessings of PKR and DAP to implement hudud.

Echoing Husam, a party activist told The Malaysian Insider that a certain faction in the party was bent on consolidating PAS's Malay support, and this had triggered the current rift with its PR partners.

Members of this faction, according to him, had also arranged a meeting last weekend between Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and former Kelantan menteri besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

"They want a repeat of the Barisan Alternatif (Alternative Front) break-up which was brought about after PAS attempted to implement hudud in Terengganu. It resulted in DAP leaving it and the BA crumbling.

"If that happens, then PAS can combine forces with Umno," the activist told The Malaysian Insider, referring to the break-up in 2001.

Another party insider said the group wanted to have a "working relationship" with Umno while remaining in Pakatan Rakyat.

"How this will be achieved is still being worked on," he added.

PAS-DAP ties appeared to have strained after DAP national organising secretary Anthony Loke suggested that PAS leave the PR coalition if it was intent on implementing hudud in Kelantan.

The Seremban MP had urged PAS to respect and abide by the consensus agreed to by PKR, DAP and PAS.

A claim by PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang added to the storm, when he was quoted in the media as saying on Sunday that PR had agreed to PAS's hudud agenda in

Kelantan.

The claim was immediately refuted by DAP leaders, including secretary-general Lim Guan Eng and Puchong MP Gobind Singh Deo, reminding Hadi that DAP had never agreed to hudud being implemented in any part of the country.

In an attempt to cool things, DAP veteran leader Lim Kit Siang urged party leaders to stop issuing statements on the matter, pending a meeting by PR's Supreme Council.

PR leaders are set to meet in the next few days.

Kit Siang, saying the meeting would be held as soon as possible, was, however, tight-lipped about the date or venue.

PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu said the meeting would happen soon.

"We will meet to discuss the issue and I hope that a solution found," Mohamad told The Malaysian Insider. – April 29, 2014.

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