

Parti Rakyat man backs hudud in Kelantan
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We must first look at how they plan to implement and enforce it, he says

SEBERANG JAYA: Azman Shah Othman, the Parti Rakyat Malaysia candidate in Permatang Pauh, has declared support for hudud, the Islamic criminal penalties. He said he backs the PAS-led Kelantan state government's controversial decision to implement hudud in Kelantan.

But he said PRM must first scrutinise the Kelantan government's plans on enforcing the law.

In March the Kelantan government passed amendments to existing state Syariah law to pave way for enforcing hudud, pending parliamentary approval.

"We support hudud as it is Allah's law. But we have to first look at how the government plans to implement and enforce it," said Azman, who was born in Permatang Pauh 50 years ago but now lives in Sungai Petani, Kedah.

He was unveiled as PRM candidate for the Permatang Pauh by-election by PRM vice president Goh Chuin Loon today, just five days away from polling on May 7.

Goh said Azman was not an independent candidate as claimed last week by former party Penang chairman Gary Nair who, he said, was an ordinary party member and not in a position to declare Azman's status.

Nair, claiming to be chairman of the Penang chapter, had said the party had rejected Azman's candidacy as he was not even a PRM member.

Goh said the party had pooled together all northern region branches into a combined northern zone at the national congress in November. The Penang branch ceased to exist, and Nair's purported position as Penang chairman was redundant.

The northern zone PRM is based in Sungai Petani, Goh said, clarifying that Azman had been an ardent party supporter before becoming a member on April 9 last year.

Asked about Nair's stand against Azman's candidature, Goh merely said that "his views could be caused by a misunderstanding and miscommunication."

Azman meanwhile said Parti Rakyat planned to have small dialogue sessions and a door-to-door campaign to "reach out to voters" and leave the task of organising large scale public rallies and events to its opponent from Parti Keadilan Rakyat and Barisan Nasional.

He said PRM, which began its by-election campaign on May Day, was capable of springing a surprise on polling day.

Azman faces PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, BN's Suhaimi Sabudin and independent candidate Salleh Isahak.

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