

PAS lawmakers plead with DAP, PKR not to break up over hudud
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By Jennifer Gomez

PAS is imploring its Pakatan Rakyat partners not to leave the opposition coalition over the Kelantan government's plan to table the amendment to the Shariah Criminal Code II tomorrow, saying that it would not change anything.

Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad pleaded with DAP and PKR to understand that the status quo would remain as it was an existing enactment that was never brought into force since 1993.

He understood that DAP was concerned that the bill was being tabled in its entirety, but explained that this was because it was easier to do it that way than to make piecemeal amendments to clauses that were being amended.

"The reason we are putting it as a whole bill is because there are three major changes and the rest are all rearranging of sentences, so instead of amending it clause-by-clause, we are tabling the bill in full after making the amendments," he told reporters at the Parliament lobby.

He also said that when it was first done in 1993, there was feedback from Islamic scholars that it was a "bad" hudud law, and as such, PAS had just "made good all the bad law".

"For instance, we addressed issues that had been worrying the people, that hudud might some day extend to non-Muslims, so it is now made very clear that it is only applicable to Muslims," he said.

He also criticised MCA and Gerakan and its DAP-bashing, saying that at least DAP and PKR were making a stand against hudud.

"But MCA and Gerakan are hiding the fact that the only way hudud can be implemented is if Umno supports it in Parliament.

"PAS has only 21 MPs, and need Umno MPs support to get a simple majority to get special permission for Kelantan to implement its own set of criminal laws different from the rest of the country," he said.

Khalid added that similarly, the special permission could be revoked by a simple majority.

As such, he advised MCA to stop its DAP-bashing and hound their ruling partner Umno instead.

He also made a final plea to DAP and PKR not to consider breaking up with PAS over the tabling of the bill tomorrow.

"We don't want to break up.

"Only Umno and Barisan Nasional wants us to split," Khalid said.

Khalid also said that understandably, DAP was under pressure from MCA to make a stand against hudud, when the ruling party was conveniently underplaying the fact that only Umno could facilitate the implementation of hudud, if it came to that.

Khalid said that the Merdeka Center survey where majority respondents said that they would rather the state government focus on rebuilding rather than implement hudud in Kelantan, made it seem that the two were mutually exclusive.

He said, however, that both could be done, given that the tabling of the hudud bill was merely administrative.

Khalid also expressed hope that its Pakatan partners would understand that the people and politics in Kelantan was so unique that even Umno had to support the hudud bill.

"It shows the push by the grassroots to the extent that even Umno has to support it.

"They supported it in 1993 and will support it again when it is tabled tomorrow. That is testimony to the uniqueness of Kelantan's politics," he added.

PAS Tumpat MP Kamaruddin Jaffar also supported Khalid views, saying that nothing would change when the bill to amend the shariah enactment is tabled tomorrow. – March 17, 2015.

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