

Why reject hudud if you want to use 'Allah', Kelantan Umno asks non-Muslims

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By Hasbullah Awang

Non-Muslims should explain why they will not accept "Allah's laws" but still want to use the Arabic name for God, Kelantan Umno said today after the state legislative assembly debated a bill to reintroduce hudud, the Islamic penal code, in the state.

Kok Lanas assemblyman, Datuk Md Alwi Che Ahmad, who is state Umno information chief, said non-Muslims must explain this and said that Kelantan Umno would support PAS's hudud move, even though both parties were political rivals.

"Non-Muslims want to use 'kalimah Allah' until the issue is brought to court. Today Kelantan wants to implement Allah's laws, why do they reject this?"

"Why do they want to use 'Allah' but not accept these laws? Answer the question first," Md Alwi told reporters after today's sitting of the legislative assembly.

A bill to amend the Kelantan Shariah Criminal Enactment II (1993) was tabled today and the state legislators will continue debating it tomorrow before taking a vote.

Md Alwi had earlier said, when debating the bill, that Kelantan Umno supported the Islamic penal code "because of Allah and not because of politics".

Speaking to reporters later, he did not mention any parties specifically but earlier today, Gerakan had filed a summons in court to challenge the constitutionality of the bill in a bid to stop the Kelantan government from enforcing hudud in the state.

Gerakan Youth chief Tan Keng Liang said the summons was filed in the Kota Baru High Court against the Kelantan state government.

He said the Federal Constitution had no basis for the implementation of hudud in Malaysia.

Kelantan PAS went ahead with the tabling of the bill today despite vehement objections from its allies in the opposition coalition Pakatan Rakyat (PR), especially DAP.

Hudud is not part of PR's common policy and the move also comes at a time when non-Muslims have complained of increasing attempts to impose Islam on various aspects of public life, as well as forced and stealthy conversions to Islam of those living or studying in interior areas of Sabah and Sarawak, the states with the largest non-Muslim Bumiputera population. – March 18, 2015.

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