

PKR opposes PAS's hudud bill
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PKR said today it would not support PAS's hudud bill should it be tabled in Parliament, as the Islamist party had acted unilaterally in the matter and gone against the Pakatan Rakyat leadership council's decision.

The party added that it also opposed the bill due to the principles of Fiqh Al-Awlawiyyat (understanding priorities), Maslahat Ummah (public interest) and the Maqasid Shariah (higher objectives of shariah).

PKR made this decision during its meeting last night to discuss PAS's private members' bill, which seeks to enable Kelantan to implement amendments to the state's hudud law.

"Keadilan has decided not to support the private members' bill due to the following reasons:

"We were not informed of the contents of the bill. It was proposed unilaterally without informing the other component parties and goes against the PR leadership council's decision on February 8, 2015.

"If the private members' bill is related to the Shariah Criminal Code II Enactment, Keadilan still sticks by its original stand, which is to not support it based on the principles of Fiqh Al-Awlawiyyat, Maslahat Ummah and Maqasid Shariah," PKR said in a statement.

It was referring to the party's stand that correcting injustice in society and defending the people's welfare should be given higher priority than implementing hudud.

The statement was signed by PKR's top leaders, including party president Datuk Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail; deputy president Nurul Izzah Anwar, vice-presidents Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin and Rafizi Ramli; Women's chief Zuraida Kamaruddin and Youth chief Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

They added that Parliament's standing orders stipulate that a bill can only be tabled and debated if the government gives it the green light.

The party also called on Umno and Barisan Nasional to clarify whether it supported the bill.

"The fact is, not a single leader has made a clear and public statement on their stand about the bill being brought to Parliament, including Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his deputy, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"Hence Keadilan urges the Umno-BN government to explain whether it approves the bill being debated and voted in Parliament."

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang is seeking to table the private members' bill in Parliament during the current sitting ending April 9.

The bill is to amend the Shariah Courts Act (Criminal Jurisdiction) 1965, which limits the power of the Shariah courts to a maximum penalty of RM3,000 in fine, five years' jail and six strokes of the rotan.

An amendment is required in this law to enable Kelantan to carry out hudud law, after the state assembly on Thursday unanimously passed the Shariah Criminal Code II Enactment 1993 (Amendment 2015). – March 21, 2015.

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