

Parliament to debate hudud bill, but last item on the list
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PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's private member's bill on the enactment of hudud in Kelantan has been entered into Parliament's order paper today.

The bill is, however, the last item in the line-up for debates in this sitting of the Dewan Rakyat, which ends on Thursday.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri previously said Hadi's bill was unlikely to be raised as the agenda for the current session as it was already full.

Hadi sent a notice to Parliament on March 18, on the bill after the Kelantan state assembly unanimously approved the Shariah Criminal Code 11 1993 (Amendment 2015).

This would allow Hadi to table the bill to amend the Shariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965, or what is known as Act 355, paving the way for certain categories under the hudud to be implemented in Kelantan.

On March 19, the Kelantan legislative assembly unanimously passed the Shariah Criminal Code II Enactment 1993 (Amendment 2015).

PAS's allies in the opposition pact Pakatan Rakyat – DAP and PKR – said they would not support the bill in Parliament.

The Islamist party's renewed push for hudud also caused DAP to terminate its ties with the PAS president, although it decided to remain in the opposition coalition.

After strong opposition from his Pakatan allies, Hadi in a Facebook posting two weeks ago asked everyone to listen first to what he had to say in Parliament on hudud before criticising him.

"We are knowledgeable, civilised and matured creatures. So listen to what we want to say first.

"Don't jump to conclusions and criticise vociferously without knowing the whole story," he said.

The bill seeks to amend Section 2 of Act 355 to replace existing provision on the subject of the Shariah Court's criminal jurisdiction over those professing the religion of Islam.

"The objective of the amendment is to clarify that the Shariah Court's jurisdiction over a person professing to the faith of Islam is not limited to the violation of the teachings of the religion only but also include any violations connected to all matters mentioned

in the State's List as contained in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution," it reads.

"Clause 3 seeks to introduce the new Section 2A into Act 355 with the objective of increasing the Shariah Court's power to pass sentences."

DAP lawmaker Zairil Khir Johari said that the fact the bill has appeared on the list was no surprise, adding that this would reveal the prime minister's stand on the implementation of the Islamic penal code in Kelantan.

"As we all know, Hadi went against PR consensus by tabling a private member's bill. So this is no surprise. What would be a surprise is if a private member's bill was allowed to be read out as that has never occurred in our Parliament," he told The Malaysian Insider.

"If it does, then clearly Putrajaya supports the bill. So, we shall finally see whether Najib is for or against the hudud enactment in Kelantan.

"The prime minister does not seem able to make a decision, leading to a farcical situation because his ministers are now contradicting each other." – April 7, 2015.

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