

PAS: Hudud merely 'political capital' for Umno for GE14

Free Malaysia Today

May 29, 2017

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Vice-president Idris Ahmad says contradictory assertions by Umno leaders in Terengganu on hudud implementation has revealed the party's true attitude on the issue.

PETALING JAYA: PAS vice-president Idris Ahmad has accused Umno of merely using the discussion on the planned implementation of hudud (Islamic criminal punishment) as political capital ahead of the 14th general election (GE14).

He said unlike Umno, PAS was consistent in seeking to improve Islamic laws.

This was proven when its party president Abdul Hadi Awang tabled a private member's bill in the Dewan Rakyat to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965 (Act 355), to intensify shariah criminal punishment, he added.

He said Umno's show of support for the bill was just a means to create a stumbling block for PAS and to help itself in facing the upcoming election due by the middle of next year.

"Umno has no stand. If you want to do it, you should just do it," he said today, referring to the apparent support by the party's members for the amendment.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia, an Umno member and former Barisan Nasional minister, had on the final day of the Dewan Rakyat sitting on April 6 deferred the debate over Hadi's bill until Parliament reconvenes on July 24.

"PAS is consistent, unlike other people who just want to create political issues," he told FMT.

Idris was responding to a statement on Saturday by Terengganu Menteri Besar Ahmad Razif Abdul Rahman, that the state was not prepared to implement hudud law until an in-depth study on it was conducted first.

Razif who is also Terengganu Umno chairman, said the decision to implement hudud must be determined by the state assembly and only after getting the consent of the Sultan of Terengganu.

Razif's view contradicted the assertion by the state's telecommunications, multimedia and special tasks executive councillor, Ghazali Taib, who during the Terengganu Media 'Kembara Dakwah' event in Aceh on Friday said Terengganu would continue to fight for the implementation of Islamic law in the state.

Ghazali reportedly said Terengganu would make Aceh a model for hudud implementation if it was applied in the state.

Idris however said the remarks revealed the true nature of Umno.

“That’s Umno. That’s their attitude. When are they going to be ready anyway? Unlike them, our (PAS) stance is clear in all matters,” he said, questioning Umno’s readiness to implement hudud.

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Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2017/05/29/pas-hudud-merely-political-capital-for-umno-for-ge14/>