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PM: Pas' interpretation of Islamic laws is wrong

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LANGKAWI, Mon. - The Kelantan Government's move to rectify the mistake contained in the State's Syariah II Criminal Code - which gave the impression that a man could sodomise his wife - proves that Pas' interpretation of Islamic laws is wrong, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said there would not have been any mistake in the laws Pas was implementing if they were in line with the teachings of Islam, as "God's laws are perfect".

Dr Mahathir said Pas' aim to introduce hudud in the country was thus a purely political move that had nothing to do with Islam.

"This is what I have been saying, if it is really hudud (which the Pas State Government is trying to implement), then there shouldn't be any need to rectify (any mistake), because the laws of Allah cannot be rectified.

"This is actually just their (Pas') interpretation and because of that (the mistake), it is now found their interpretation is wrong," he said at the Langkawi International Airport before his departure for Kuala Lumpur. Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, arrived here yesterday for an overnight working visit.

Dr Mahathir was responding to a comment made recently by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, who said the State would rectify the mistake.

This follows a revelation by Kelantan Umno liaison committee deputy chairman Zaid Ibrahim, who claimed that Terengganu's Syariah Criminal Offences Enactment (Hudud and Qisas) and Kelantan's Syariah II Criminal Code gave the impression that a man could sodomise his wife.

Zaid said the two identical Bills, when translated, read: "Sodomy is an offence that is defined as intercourse between a man and another man or between a man and a woman other than his own wife that is conducted outside the course of nature which is through the anus."

Dr Mahathir said it was stated in the Quran that the implementation of punishment under Islam must be done in a just manner.

"But this (what Pas is doing) is not fair. It is clear, and we have explained how (under Pas' interpretation) those who are raped are punished while those who rape are not.

How can that be just, that is not Islamic."

Dr Mahathir said any method or form of punishment must be just if it is to be in line with Islam.

"If it is not (just), then it is not Islamic. If (punishments) oppress women and such, then it is not Islamic."

Asked whether the mistake was causing non-Muslims to obtain a misrepresentation of the religion, Dr Mahathir said:

"Yes, and they (Pas) now want to rectify the mistake due to politics. This is not about Islam, but about politics; Pas party politics."

Dr Mahathir said Pas was aiming to obtain votes from Muslims by telling them that hudud would be implemented, but told non-Muslims they would not do it because they wanted the non-Muslim vote as well.

"This is trickery, major trickery which should not be coming from people who are supposedly using Islam as a motivation."

On the lessons from the episode that Pas supporters should take heed of, Dr Mahathir said the problem was that Pas supporters had already shut themselves off to anyone else apart from their party and leaders.

He described them as people who had become so obsessed with their leaders and their party that they were willing to commit wrongs which were against Islam.