

Since the the Private Member's Bill, now dubbed the 'Hudud Bill', was fast-tracked in the Dewan Rakyat last week, there has been vociferous debate and even threats of resignation.

However, PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang, who submitted the bill, said the matter concerned Muslims.

In an emphatic argument, he said meddling in the matter could be construed as a transgression of boundaries and an attempt to demolish the wall of differences which has maintained harmony.

Penning his views in PAS organ *Harakahdaily*, the Marang MP said PAS need not shoulder the burden of DAP's "mistake".

It is believed that the PAS president was referring to the difference in approaches, pointing out that the Islamic party engaged in discussions, even with political opponents.

This differed from DAP, he said, which gathers non-Muslims, especially the Chinese, into an opposition "bucket" (bakul) and creates noise in Parliament and through street protests for the sake of making headlines.

On the controversial bill, the PAS president said this was not new and had been raised several times, dating as far back as the parliament sitting in 1995.

"Amendments are made based on negotiations outside of Parliament, because the political front is not only confined to debating in Parliament.

"The democratic practice is not only in Parliament, including the relationship between the government and opposition through negotiations.

"This motion was brought based on discussions outside of Parliament, seeking a peaceful approach despite the differences in opinions and approaches," he said.

Hadi said the motion seeks to correct the basis of the Federal Constitution.

"The problem is there is still no freedom for Islam, which is the religion of the federation, and for Muslims faced with problems which necessitate resolution through syariah.

“This is what Muslims have realised, and not just in PAS, but also in Umno and others, whether or not they are involved in politics, from the common citizen to rulers and leaders, be it good or bad Muslims, because of the love for Islam in their hearts,” he added.

He said Muslims must look at this as a matter of faith.

“Our faith tells us that upholding Islam is more important than politics, although politics, too, cannot be separated from Islam,” he said.

Last Thursday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Azalina Othman Said tabled a motion in the Dewan Rakyat to prioritise Hadi's Private Member's Bill ahead of government business.

The bill, which is to amend Act 355 to raise the threshold of penalties which the syariah courts can mete out, is dubbed the 'Hudud Bill' because it paves the way for hudud in Kelantan.

Hadi, however, asked that his bill be tabled in the next session in October, as last Thursday was the last day of the second session of the Dewan Rakyat.

READ Hadi's original statement in Bahasa Malaysia [here](#).