



Majlis Perundingan Malaysia Agama Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh dan Tao

Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism
Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism

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URGENT APPEAL – OPPOSE RUU 355

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) makes this urgent appeal to all Malaysians of goodwill and amity to oppose Dato' Hadi Awang's Private Member's Bill (RUU355) when it comes up for debate soon at the next Parliamentary session.

As the Bill will have far-reaching consequences for the nation, the MCCBCHST feels duty bound to challenge our elected representatives in Parliament to do their duty as required by their solemn oath to preserve and protect the Federal Constitution which embodies the secular status of our country.

The MCCBCHST has consistently maintained that there is no necessity of implementing Hudud in a multiracial and multireligious society like Malaysia.

In 1957 the Conference of Rulers, the Government of the Federation of Malaya, comprising UMNO, the MCA and MIC, and the British Government agreed to the enactment of the Federal Constitution of Malaya on the basis of the recommendations of the Reid Commission.

Article 4 provides that the Constitution is the supreme law of the Federation and any law passed after Merdeka Day which is inconsistent with the Constitution shall to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.

Even when Sabah and Sarawak, together with Singapore came together to form Malaysia (1963), there was no stated intention to introduce religious laws, which is attested by the 20 points for Sabah and 18 points for Sarawak agreements.

Therefore, should there be an attempt to amend the Constitution to pave the way for the implementation of Hudud, it would be a clear violation of the Agreement reached between

the members of the Alliance Party in 1957 and the Agreements in 1963, with Sabah and Sarawak.

A multiracial country like Malaysia cannot afford to alter the secular character of its Constitution to allow for the implementation of PAS' Hudud enactment. Even the first three Prime Ministers were on record to have stated that Malaysia was conceived to be a secular country.

We hope and pray that the sanctity of the Constitution and the secular values it promotes will be preserved so that all Malaysians will continue to enjoy the right to liberty and that all citizens will be treated equally under the law (Article 8)

We feel duty bound to oppose any form of a dual criminal system in the country.

We join hands with fellow Malaysians to build a just country, politically strong to face the challenges from forces of retrogression and reaction.

Dated: 2 March 2017

Signed

Ven. Dato' Seri Jit Heng
President

Signed

Datuk R.S. Mohan Shan
Deputy President

Signed

Bishop Datuk Sebastian Francis
Vice-President

Signed

Sardar Jagir Singh
Vice-President

signed

Daozhang Tan Hoe Chieow
Vice-President

Signed

Mr. Prematilaka Serisana
Hon. Secretary-General