

# Islamic Political Representation in Malaysia



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The Islamic Political Representation in Malaysia explains that in the Islamic political system, through the constitutional idea of popular *Caliphate* and the principle of mutual consultation (*Shura*), the *Shariah* confers upon all adult Muslims equal political rights. This equality gives the Muslim community the right to participate in the decision-making process of all major political issues of modern Muslim states. The basic reason for popular participation in the decision-making process is that political rights, like almost all other rights guaranteed by the *Shari' ah*, entail numerous religious and legal obligations. The fulfilment of these obligations makes political participation in itself an obligation of the Muslim *Ummah*.

From the *Shari' ah* perspective, political participation in Islam constitutes both an exercise of rights and a fulfilment of religious obligations the ideal method for such political participation, is that of direct popular consultation. Human experience, however, has shown that direct popular participation in decision-making is possible only in small communities, as the problem of size makes direct popular participation difficult. The only available and practical option then is to ensure effective popular participation in decision-making process through the 'representative government'.

