

CNS8154

R GE 18-01 00199 EA711

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Mahathir-Islam

AMENDMENTS IN LINE WITH WISHES OF ISLAM, MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- ⁹³ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir ¹⁰ Mohamad said today the proposal to amend the constitution to remove the legal immunity of the Rulers was in line with the wishes of Islam.

The Prime Minister questioned the stance of a Malay Ruler who rejected the amendments but accepted hudud (Islamic criminal) law.

"According to His Highness, he is prepared to accept the Islamic law without immunity but not willing to accept the country's law which is not an Islamic law, + he said when tabling the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill 1993 at a special two-day sitting of the Dewan Rakyat.

Dr Mahathir said: "Whether he consents or not, the position of the Malay Rulers since independence is based on the country's law, that is, the constitution.

"It is this law that gives special privileges to the Rulers. Among them is the legal immunity.

"If a ruler is prepared to enjoy immunity under the law not consider Islamic, why can't he accept the removal of the immunity under the same law?" -- more

▼18/01/18-35MST

CNS8185

R GE 18-01 00171 EA712

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Mahathir-Islam 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said the government did not reject hudud law but its implementation should take into consideration that the Muslims formed only 56 per cent of the country's population and they were still backward in many fields.

He added: "If the situation warrants, we will implement the hudud law. But in the meantime, let us not act in contrast with the wishes of Islam.

"In fact, crimes prohibited by the country's law are also prohibited by Islam.

"Does the Ruler concerned want the freedom to commit crimes just because we still cannot implement hudud law which prohibits the same crime?"

Dr Mahathir said Islam held to two important principles relating to law, that is no discrimination in implementing the law and no immunity in Islam.

In the first principle, he said, Rulers and the people were equal under the law and the immunity accorded to Rulers was against this principle. -- more

♥18/01/18-52MST

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R GE 18-01 00168 EA713

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"To reject the removal of legal immunity will cause inequality (between Rulers and people) to continue and this does not reflect a strong commitment to the principle of Islam," he added.

The Prime Minister said the second principle was that there was no immunity in Islam... the law is for all.

"A Ruler who wants immunity from the law has in fact contravened the principle of Islam," he added.. "||

The Prime Minister also said that Islam was not rigid but offered much latitude. It always took into consideration all factors and the situation faced by the followers.

"Likewise, in the implementation of hudud law, the situation and composition of the people should be taken into consideration," he added.

That was why not many countries with Muslim majority had implemented the hudud law, and those that have done so did not enforce the law in whole, he said. -- more

♥18/01/19-11MST

CNS8218

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Mahathir-Islam, 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said the Muslims should not reject the latitude accorded by Islam and those who rejected it were not adhering fully to the wishes of Islam.

"Islam does not ask its followers or Muslim governments to implement the Islamic law indiscriminately to the extent that it could bring them harm," he added. -- Bernama

▼18/01/19-12MST