

ISLAM TAG STAYS

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2 3 MAR 2001

Parties, organisations can use the word, says Conference of Rulers

KUALA LUMPUR The Conference of Rulers does not object to the use of the word Islam in the names of parties and other organisations

The Rulers decided this at their 188th meeting which ended yesterday according to a statement issued by the office of the Keeper of the Rulers Seal

In fact the statement added the Conference of Rulers encouraged the use of the word Islam so long as it is for purposes within the context of knowledge disciplines enhancement of the faith and compassion

However the Rulers cautioned individuals or organisations that it was an offence and against Islamic

Syariah principles to use Islam to confuse the community or for deviant purposes

Violators would face action under the provisions of existing legislations it said

The statement said the Conference of Rulers discussed Malay/Muslim disunity and endorsed the following rulings made by the

Fatwa Committee of the National Council for Islamic Affairs

● THERE is no restriction on the use of the word Islam by any organisation In fact the use of such word is encouraged but only within the context of knowledge disciplines enhancement of the faith and compassion

However any individual or or

organisation using Islam to confuse the community or for deviant ends which run contrary to the principles of Islamic Syariah can be prosecuted under existing laws

● A PERSON is recognised as a Muslim upon meeting the obligations and abiding by command

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Umno respects decision on use of 'Islam'

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ments relating to the pillars of faith and pillars of Islam

As such there is no need for any quarter to attach additional conditions to determine one's Islamic characteristics It is wrongful under Islam to subscribe to the belief that affiliation and proclamation of support for a specific group is a prerequisite before one is deemed a Muslim

Therefore any person practising preaching and spreading such beliefs in whatever form is spreading deviant teaching and is committing an

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offence and
● IT is only God the Almighty's absolute right to determine who goes to heaven or hell As such it is wrong under Islam to claim that only those vowing loyalty to any individual or organisation can go to heaven or otherwise Therefore anyone practising preaching and spreading such belief in whatever manner is categorised as a disseminator of deviant teachings

The meeting was chaired by Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu

It was attended by all the Rulers and Yang di Pertuan

Negri except for the Sultan of Kedah who was represented by the Raja Muda of Kedah the Sultan of Pahang who was represented by the Tengku Muda Pahang and the Sultan of Johor who was represented by the Tunku Mahkota

Selangor was represented by the Regent

The Yang di Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah attended the meeting accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad

The statement said the meeting also discussed national security religious matters

and appointments

The meeting also decided to elevate High Court judges Datuk Karam Chand Vohrah Datuk Wira Mohd Noor Ahmad and Datuk Alauddin Mohd Sheriff as Appeals Court judges effective from a date to be announced later

It also endorsed the recent appointment of Datuk Siti Norma Yaakob Datuk Haidar Mohamed Noor and Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah as Federal Court judges

Umno said it respected the Rulers decision

Its secretary general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob however

said it was premature to make further comment

Khalil who is Information Minister said this when approached by reporters after meeting foreign journalists over tea here

At Parliament lobby PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor said the decision was in accordance with Islamic teachings

The outcome is in line with the country's interests and for the sake of peace he said

PAS welcomes the decision and hopes Umno will abide by it and not make any more attempts to have the word dropped he told reporters