

22 MAR 2001

Rulers-Islam

RULERS DO NOT OBJECT TO USE OF THE WORD ISLAM IN NAMES OF ORGANISATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 22 (Bernama) -- The Conference of Rulers does not object to the use of the word Islam in the names of organisations and declares that it is against Islam for any organisation to promise its followers that they shall go to Heaven.

It maintained that no group has the right to attach additional conditions to determine a person's Islamic status upon him meeting obligations under the pillars of faith and pillars of Islam.

This was the decision of the 188th meeting of the Conference of Rulers based on rulings by the Fatwa Committee of the National Islamic Affairs Council, according to the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal in a statement issued at the close of the two-day meeting today.

The Conference of Rulers decided that individuals or organisations using the word Islam to confuse society or for deviant purposes run contrary to Islamic syaria principles and could be prosecuted under the law.

The statement of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal reads:

As regards Malay/Muslim disunity, the meeting agreed to endorse the following rulings made by the Fatwa Committee of the National Islamic Affairs Council:

\* 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 organisation using Islam to confuse the community or for deviant ends runs contrary to the principles of Islamic syaria and can be prosecuted under existing laws.

\* A person is recognised as a Muslim upon meeting the obligations and abiding by commandments relating to the pillars of faith and pillars of Islam.

As such there is no need for any quarters 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 specific group is a prerequisite before one is deemed a Muslim.

Therefore, any person practising, preaching and spreading such belief in whatever form is spreading deviant teaching and is committing an offence.

\* 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 disseminators of deviant teaching.

Several quarters had earlier demanded that organisations be banned from using the word Islam as part of their name and PAS objected to this.

The Rulers' Conference meeting was chaired by Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu and attended by all the Rulers and Yang Dipertuas Negeri 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 Haji Mohd Noor Ahmad and Datuk Alauddin Mohd Sheriff as  
Appeal's Court Judges effective from a date to be announced later.

It also endorsed recent appointment of Datuk Siti Norma Yaakob, Datuk  
Haidar Mohamed Noor dan Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah as Federal Court Judges.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AHH MAI RYN