

## ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

# MUFTI BILL TO BE PRESENTED TO RULERS NEXT WEEK

PM: It is undergoing expert-level discussions

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Mufti (Federal Territories) Bill 2024 will be re-

ferred to the Conference of Rulers next week.

He said the bill was undergoing expert-level discussions.

“The Mufti Bill is being discussed and opinions are being heard.

“However, there are no disputes regarding the Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah and references to the Shafi’i, Maliki, Hanafi, and Hanbali schools of thought, as well as other viewpoints.

“Sometimes, these details are discussed... so I defer to the experts, and it will then be referred to the Conference of Rulers next week,” he said at the Global Madani Forum here yesterday.

On Wednesday, Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail expressed his displeasure over the use of the Conference of Rulers’ name in efforts to endorse the Mufti (Federal Ter-

ritories) Bill.

On July 2, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Mohd Na’im Mokhtar presented for the first reading in Parliament three bills concerning Islamic affairs in the country.

The Mufti (Federal Territories) Bill includes the Islamic Laws Administration (Federal Territories) (Amendment) Bill 2024 and the Shariah Court Procedure (Federal Territories) (Amendment) Bill 2024.

The bill also lists the establishment of the Federal Territories Fatwa Committee, Syariah Astronomy Committee, Hilal Sighting Committee and the Islamic Education Oversight Committee chaired by the mufti.

Additionally, it defines Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah from the *akidah* perspective based on the Al-Asyairah, Al-Maturidiah streams, and Shafi’i Mazhab jurisprudence, and honouring three other *mazhab* and the *tasawuf* of Imam Ghazali and Imam Junaid.

On a separate issue, Anwar said the persistent challenge of bribery is hindering efforts to eradicate prostitution and gambling centres.

However, he said, the government, under the Federal Territories Ministry, had been implementing rigorous measures



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (centre) greeting participants at the Global Madani Forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

since last year to combat these problems.

“Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa, who has been tasked with this alongside the mayor, is addressing an issue that has been left unaddressed for a long time, including in previous governments.

“What is being discussed now is different from the current reality. Since last year, we have begun to take stringent action.

“I believe that if there are prostitution and illegal gambling dens, there must be elements of bribery involved.”

This comes after neighbouring country Indonesia managed to close the Dolly area in Surabaya, which had long been the largest prostitution centre in Southeast Asia.

Recently, experts also cautioned that prostitution activities in the country must be halted immediately.

Crime analyst and criminologist Datuk Shahul Hamid Abd Rahim said coordinated efforts by all concerned parties was essential for success.

He added that it was disheartening that some individuals were willing to accept bribes from prostitution syndicates, effectively turning a blind eye to these activities.

Meanwhile, Dr Zaliha, also reportedly said further discussions would be held to expand the terms of reference for the “KL Strike Force” in efforts to ensure the harmony and wellbeing of the city’s residents.

She said a new strategy must be studied and reviewed in any area

reported and identified as a site of prostitution activities.

“Transforming the appearance and image of these areas can be carried out through urban renewal programmes by enhancing safety features, livability and economic viability.”

*Harian Metro* had exposed that some prostitutes were soliciting clients at food courts in Jalan Gelang and Jalan Kalong.

Following this, the Anti-Vice, Gambling, and Secret Societies Division (D7) of the Criminal Investigation Department of Bukit Aman raided the locations and arrested 27 people, including guest relations officers and prostitutes.

Subsequently, police identified four locations around the capital that are being used as prostitution dens.