

**Treason if Pandikar allows tabling of Hadi's bill, says ex-Umno MP**  
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**Mohamed Tawfik Ismail says Dewan Rakyat speaker is 'playing politics' and showing 'arrogance of the highest order'.**

PETALING JAYA: Parliament Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia will be committing treason if he allows the tabling of PAS' bill to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act (Act 355), says former Umno MP Mohamed Tawfik Ismail.

The motion, which was moved up the agenda in the Dewan Rakyat order paper, is scheduled to be the first item to be tabled today.

"Today is a sad day for Malaysians. Today Parliament is dead. Parliament is dead when the Speaker who took an oath to protect preserve and defend the Constitution betrays the very oath he has taken," Tawfik said in a statement.

Tawfik had on Apr 1 filed a suit seeking to declare PAS' private member's bill as unconstitutional and one that flouted Parliament procedures.

Yesterday, he showed up at the Dewan Rakyat to deliver a notice of writ of summons to the Speaker, but was stopped from entering by security officers. The notice was later received by Pandikar's special officer.

The son of the country's second deputy prime minister Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman said the Dewan Rakyat's decision to allow a motion to table the bill by PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang was in contempt of the Rulers' Conference as prior consent was not obtained.

Tawfik sought 10 declarations and orders that would effectively stop the tabling of the bill to amend Act 355.

In his suit, he named Pandikar and Dewan Rakyat secretary Roosme Hamzah as defendants.

Today, he accused Pandikar of "playing politics" in ignoring the Ruler's Conference rights to be consulted before the promulgation of any laws that will divide us as a nation".

"For the speaker to jump Hadi's motion and place it at No.1 in the order paper is arrogance of the highest order," he said.

“He wants to show power. He wants to show he can abuse power and there is nothing anyone can do about it. That much is clear.

“Today, the speaker of Parliament commits treason if he disregards the matters we have brought to his attention.”

The bill to amend Act 355 seeks to increase the maximum punishments for shariah offences. It was tabled last year by Hadi.

The PAS president is seeking to increase the maximum punishment for shariah offences to 30 years' jail, 100 lashes of the cane, and RM100,000 in fines.

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