

**CHRISTIAN FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA
PERSEKUTUAN KRISTIAN MALAYSIA**

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3rd March 2017

**CFM FACT SHEET ON THE PROPOSED BILL TO AMEND ACT 355
AND WHY IT SHOULD BE OPPOSED**

It is a fact that Islamic law or the Syariah has had an impact on the lives of non-Muslim Malaysians. There are many examples over the decades, including enactments – both State laws and in the Syariah - that forbid the use of certain words or even of greetings such as “Peace be with you” or “Assalaamualeykkum”. There are frequent uproars over what is deemed “halal” which even some Muslims find debatable, and which are divisive as well as disruptive.

The most serious or most talked about recently would be what is generally referred to as “Hudud Law”. Although non-Muslims keep being reassured that they will not be affected, this is untrue.

This CFM Fact Sheet on the Proposed Amendments to Act 355 is to provide details about these Hudud Enactments and especially the latest Bill to amend Act 355 which will likely be voted on in the next session of Parliament. Non-Muslim Malaysians need to be aware of the implications of this Bill and ask one’s relevant Member of Parliament to vote against the Bill.

It is important to note that UMNO, the ruling party in the current government coalition has joined forces with PAS to present this Bill in Parliament, and UMNO leaders have openly expressed their support for this Bill. The implications of the government of all Malaysians supporting such a Bill are considerable.

An amendment such as those proposed to Act 355 have grave consequences and would affect the fundamental principles of justice, freedoms and rights of all Malaysians, As such, they must be thoroughly and responsibly discussed openly and honestly. This has not happened.

The amendments proposed by Dato’ Seri Hadi Bin Awang’s private member’s bill should no longer be solely in the domain of Muslims alone or a compulsive duty by Muslims as asserted by the PAS President, even to the extent of claiming this small element of the Syariah as “Divine Law” which it is not.

The proposed amendments should only be initiated by the Government after a thorough study of its impact and gravity on Malaysians of all walks of life. Any intended increase of the punishments prescribed should be in accordance to sound principles of laws and our Constitution.

The Christian Federation of Malaysia calls upon members of the Malaysian Parliament, both in the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara, not to approve either version of the proposed amendments to Act 355.

We call upon all Malaysians to contact their Member of Parliament the addresses of the Members of Parliament service centres can be found on the Parliament website <http://www.parlimen.gov.my/ahli-dewan.html?uweb=dr&> to ensure that their Member of Parliament attends the sitting of the Dewan Rakyat that votes on this matter, and to ensure that s/he does not vote in favour of the amendments.

Yours Sincerely,



Rev. Dr. Eu Hong Seng,
Chairman and the Executive Committee,
The Christian Federation of Malaysia.