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The New Editor

Press Statement

All parties should respect the Malaysia Agreement, uphold the Federal Constitution and oppose the private member's bill on Syariah Criminal Code

The Selangor and Kuala Lumpur Hokkien Association (SKLHA) strongly oppose the Government's act of fast tracking the private member's bill on Syariah Criminal Code tabled by PAS President Abdul Hadi Awang.

The Government should have resolutely upheld the supreme position of the Federal Constitution, and reject any bills which contravene the Federal Constitution, including the bill on Syariah Criminal Code. The foundation of the founding of Malaysia in 1963 was based on the Malaysia Agreement and the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) Report which makes it a secular federation. The Federation of Malaysia being a multi-cultural, multi-religious, and multi-ethnic nation, we need a secular federal constitution to preserve the peace and prosperity of East and West Malaysia.

SKLHA is against the development of "one country with two legal systems". In the event when a country develops two legal systems, it will bring about confusion and lead to unfairness. Imagine if there were a criminal case involving a Muslim and a non-Muslim, how would a country with two legal systems were to fairly and justly address the problem.

SKLHA is oppose to UMNO or any other political party using or manipulating religion as a means of advancing its political interest or consolidating its hold on power in the government. SKLHA call on all the other component parties within the Barisan Nasional to continue to standup against the Bill and also to review their relationship with UMNO within the coalition. At the same time, the opposition parties should also strongly reject the Bill; their position should not be one of ambivalent.

SKLHA call on all organizations and the public who care about the future of our nation to resolutely defend the secular nature of our Federal Constitution, and oppose the passing of the private member's bill on Syariah Criminal Code.

Thay Peng Kee
President