

# Religious Liberty and Social Policy: Rethinking Spiritual Values and History Education

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# The Issue

- An ill-defined religious liberty and a narrow-minded social policy has brought Malaysia to the brink of total destruction in nation building.



Cina-Babi Red Shirt Rally  
16/9/16

Mufti Pahang Kafir Harbi  
22/6/16

Cina tak bersih  
10/10/2017

## Umat Islam bersekongkol dengan DAP haram – Mufti Pahang **DAP tergolong kafir harbi wajar ditentang**

Oleh AZRUL HAKIMIE ANUER  
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■ KUALA LUMPUR 23 JUN  
DAP yang jelas menentang pelaksanaan hukum Islam dan berhasrat untuk menubuhkan sebuah negara sekular tergolong dalam kalangan kafir harbi yang wajib ditentang oleh umat Islam.  
Mufti Pahang, Datuk Seri Dr. Abdul Rahman Osman berkata, hukum bagi mana-mana umat Islam yang bekerjasama atau bersekongkol dengan DAP adalah haram serta berdos besar.  
Kata beliau, politik kebencian yang diamalkan oleh DAP jika dijalankan secara berterusan dibimbangi boleh menggugat keamanan dan keselamatan negara.  
"Kita dapat lihat DAP begitu

■ PAS dahulu buat kesilapan dengan bersekongkol dengan DAP sebelum mereka menyedari bahawa parti berkenaan memusuhi Islam. Saya harap Dr. Mahathir perbanyakkan istighfar dan hentikan jalin kerjasama dengan DAP."  
**ABDUL RAHMAN OSMAN**  
Mufti Pahang  
mahu menentang Islam, kita wajib memeranginya," kata beliau ketika dihubungi hari ini.  
*Utusan Malaysia* hari ini memuatkan artikel oleh pengarang ini.



man meminta Dr. Mahathir segera meninggalkan DAP dan kembali ke landasan yang benar apatah lagi beliau menjurus kesucian untuk menajuhkan negara Islam.  
■ PAS dahulu buat kesilapan bersekongkol dengan DAP sebelum mereka menyedari bahawa parti berkenaan memusuhi Islam. Saya harap Dr. Mahathir perbanyakkan istighfar dan hentikan kerjasama dengan DAP."  
ra.

October 10, 2017

### Pegawai Jakim selar Sultan Johor, bidas Cina tak bersih

FMT Reporters

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# The Message

- Religious institutions need to inculcate a rethinking of spiritual values towards nation building and global co-existence
- Religious institutions need to reeducate a history narratives of shared responsibility and non-conflict in the old idea of 'religious war'
- Since social policies are governed by a narrow construct of a single race and single dominant religious authority, it is up to ordinary citizens to bring change and rebuild Malaysia

# Content of Presentation

- Our inherited religious liberty
- Our inherited social policy
- Conflicts in society on religious issues
- The Way Forward 1: Rethinking three spiritual values towards nation building
- The Way Forward 2: Rethinking three historical narratives towards nation building
- The Way Forward 3: Rebuilding society through private initiative in education
- The Way Forward 4: Rebuilding a new township of alternate Malaysia



# Rationale for the Way Forward

- This approach requires **an all citizens call to service**
- Our civil service is tainted with a single dominant race and dominant religious narrative
- Our politicians make use of our racial and religious historical baggage towards their own selfish objectives
- We the citizens must 'sidestep' both the political powers and historical baggage and start anew
- We must rebuild a new Malaysia as the motto, "**Our Country, Our Responsibility.**"

# Evidence of Power Shift

- ICERD issue
- Rome statute issue
- Kongress maruah Melayu
- JAWI issue
- Social media and public universities used to spread the 'war narrative' of racial and religious mistrust
- Conservative religious institutions are 'willing' bystanders
- More moderates in the parliament does not guarantee centrist policies

# Our Inherited Religious 'Liberty'

- A single dominant religious authority with people's money and political power
- A *Rukun Negara* with 'Kepercayaan kepada Tuhan' as the first principle
- An education system that disallows other religions in its national curriculum
- Total isolation of sharing values across religions in religious sermon
- A single political party allowed to use religion as a political ideology (PAS)
- A law enforcement and judiciary dominated by a single race and religion
- A law on 'insult to religion' that seems to work only one way
- A university education that allows one religion to become several universities
- An MPU subject curriculum that has no inspiring teachers or syllabus
- A Minister of Religious Affairs that does not visit or care about other religions save one
- Rise of a religious conservatism after a single religious reformation movement

# Our Inherited Social Policy

- A *Dasar Kebudayaan Kebangsaan* that does not give equal standing to all heritage save one
- A *Rukun Negara* that is ill-defined as Kesopanan dan Kesusilaan
- A Rukun Negara preamble of 'liberal co-existence' that is conveniently ignored and untaught to children and graduates
- A Ministry of Unity that does not understand acceptance, compassion, heritage sharing and interdependence of race relations
- Rise of housing development and township for a single race and religious adherents and the existence of housing and towns of a 90% single race dominance (Putrajaya, Saujana Impian, Bangi)
- An education curriculum in schools and universities that emphasises careers in industry and not a holistic human entity



# Conflicts in Society on Religious Issues

- The threat to Bible burning incident (Ibrahim Ali)
- The Ramadhan toilet issue at a public school
- The Halal glass issue in a public school
- The alcohol and “Timah” issue
- The Laundromat Cina “kotor” issue
- The Hindu “kotor” UTM issue
- The Mufti Perlis Hindu derogatory remarks issue
- The UiTM and religious department threat of Christianisation issue
- The RUU 355 Kafir Harbi issue
- The Friday prayer assault issue
- The insult to Prophet issue
- The Zakir Naik issue
- ...plus 10 others within a span of 10 years!

# The Way Forward 1-Three Spiritual Values for Nation Building

- **Helping 'others'** as a core to Godliness
- **Humility** - where one does not think that others are destined to Hell or have a low morality just because they profess a different faith or lifestyle. Piety is about kindness of thought and action, not just becoming a member of a religion
- **According dignity** to all individuals and honouring other's heritage, culture and values

# The Way Forward 2 - Three Historical Narratives for Nation Building

- All narratives of 'religious wars' to be redefined as political wars of selfishness and ignorance
- All tragedies like riots such as May 13 is the fault of ALL races and religions and all success in building Malaysia socially, economically and in defence of the country is by ALL communities and that we depend on each other to prosper the nation
- All heritage of art, culture and faiths are given equal standing in education

# The Way Forward 3 - Rebuilding society through private education initiative

- Our education system is totally trapped in a quagmire of conservatism, ignorance and arrogance (from kindergarten to PhD)
- We must hold talks and workshops of the Three Values of Spirituality and Three Narratives of History with teachers, professionals and university students
- We must publish books, articles, videos on the history and knowledge of all cultures as complementary information
- We must sponsor events, films, videos on multicultural efforts in giving aids as well as nurturing our young towards success in this world and global co-existence
- We must reward, recognize and award Outstanding Citizens ourselves and not depend on the government's choice and awards
- We must set up an institute for nation building sponsored by the people and free of any government interference

# The Way Forward 4 - Rebuilding a New Township

- We must set up a school with an international curriculum that would have the values and narratives of the New Malaysia
- We must set up a university campus that is globally accepted and free from Ministry of Education or MQA accreditation that would build a Global Citizenry and a new professional culture based on the 17 SDG
- We must build a New Malaysian Township 'Resort' (10,000 inhabitants) that is socially engineered to the new narratives and spiritual values coupled with a sustainable economic and environmental agenda governed by our own community politics, security and administration



# Conclusion

- Our present Malaysia is sick and dying
- We must let it go and not confront its own sick and outmoded ideas of society, decency and freedom
- Our fate lies within ourselves to rebuild this country in the way that we want
- Only by changing first ourselves and those close to us or that we are responsible for, then and only then that the New Malaysia will overshadow the present one
- We must make sure that the present Malaysia of corruption, bigotry, ignorance and extremism is eclipsed in due time by our own constructs of compassion, dignity to all, humility and a dynamic ideas of creativity but meaningful enterprises
- May Allah saves Malaysia from its present state and into a new being of Malaysia Baru by the citizens, for the citizens and of the citizens