

However, capital punishment should be conducted after a series of complex procedure to convict the perpetrator. The form of capital punishment itself is one of situational options which are not easily conducted unless the juries, advocates, and witnesses are in favour and perpetrator has been found convicted guilty. In reality, it is very difficult to fulfil this, as presenting witnesses is not an easy task. Capital punishment is not only an issue for us. Our neighbours, Singapore and Malaysia, have applied it for quite long time by hanging perpetrators found smuggling narcotics in certain amounts. Moreover, in the US and other Western countries, to some extent, they have utilized capital punishment by more extreme methods such as gas chambers, shooting in the head, lethal injection or the electric chair. Why is capital punishment questioned in Islam?

What will PKS do in regards to amusement centres, night clubs, discotheques, pubs, etc? What are PKS comments on prostitution?

This is quite a sensitive issue which PKS does not want to over-react to in responding. Therefore, we will review all necessary laws and regulations related to these issues. In principle, if they are in line or comply with the positive culture that has been existing in society, we will preserve them. Hence, PKS is very much concerned with preventing the dissolution of society through moral decay. On the prostitution issue, our study shows that this is a global problem. Every country has banned prostitution. In the US, European, Asian and African countries or Australia; ample strategies, funds, time and energy have been offered to combat this old social problem. Thus, we call for other countries to help overcoming this issue. Basically, according to most social research findings, people whose profession is prostitution are forced into it because no other kind of work is available. One of PKS's solutions is to continuously improve and train the skills of the prostitutes to do different kinds of job so that they can leave their current profession. In addition, wider opportunities for the workers should be encouraged in order to provide them with better employment.

How does PKS view the terrorism issue, especially the war on the terrorism?

It is crystal clear that PKS is against all forms of terrorism. Hence, we reject individuals, groups, or states which commit acts of terrorism. We strongly oppose all forms of terrorism, including terrorism in politics, economics and so forth. We cannot tolerate

terrorism, since Islam is a peaceful religion. Moreover, the word "Islam" is derived from "Salaam" which means "PEACE". Thus, PKS encourages the world society to engage in dialogues because terrorism is a gross violation of human rights which will never overcome any problems.

Islam was revealed as a mercy unto the universe (*rahmatan lil 'alamin*), which includes all humankind, plants, animals and the environment. Islam denies tyranny, illegal occupation and other evil deeds under any name, which are forms of terrorism acts. These acts may be done by a group of people, an institution, a state or even a group of states to the others. PKS strongly denounces any forms and acts of terrorism as such.

Does PKS agree with the anarchical actions of some Islamic organization in Indonesia in eliminating 'wrongful deeds'?

Besides being a mercy unto all mankind, Islam is a *Da'wah* or inviting people to do good deeds and forbid wrong doings. Improvement is always initiated by the call towards good values. Therefore, the process of enjoining the good (*'amar ma'ruf*) in the form of educating the people to have a good understanding of Islamic tenets and its universal good values and inviting them to practising them must be carried out first before taking the actions of forbidden wrong doings (*nahi munkar*).

Is PKS affiliated to the Muslim Brotherhood (Ikhwanul Muslimin) movement?

PKS has not limited its sources of ideological and political inspiration to the local values based in Indonesia. Most of religious books written by Muslim scholars from Indonesia do not sufficiently describe the concept of politics, economy, government, and other related issues. Hence, in order to broaden their knowledge and to obtain practical insights on those issues members of PKS studied books written by scholars from the Egyptian-based Muslim Brotherhood; Pakistani-based Jami 'at Islami; and others. PKS has come to a point where their members also seek relations with other political parties in the world. In June 2007, PKS signed a MoU with Australian Labor Party for exchange of information. PKS will extend this strategic partnership with other ruling parties in other countries, such as UMNO in Malaysia, AKP in Turkey, and Chinese Communist Party in China. Also, in order to obtain practical professional experience, PKS members/activists also liaise with NDI, IRI, etc.



PROSPEROUS JUSTICE PARTY

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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THE PARTY: CHARACTER, VISION & MISSION

What is Partai Keadilan Sejahtera (Prosperous Justice Party – PKS)?

PKS is a newcomer in political power which was established during the momentum of 1998 reform in Indonesia. It is a legal Islamic-based political entity which was previously known as Partai Keadilan (PK – Justice Party). Following the 1999 general election, PK, which was established on 20 July 1998 in Jakarta, managed to gather less than 3% of the votes, and, hence, did not pass the electoral threshold. The party then reconstituted itself as PKS.

What is the vision of PKS for Indonesia over the medium-and long-term period?

PKS has a long-term vision to establish a just, prosperous and respected civil society within the unity of the people and the nation. Meanwhile, for the medium-term PKS is envisioned to become a firm and solid *da'wah* party, i.e. enjoin people to do good deeds and forbid wrong doings, to serve and lead the nation.

What is the mission of PKS?

- To prepare necessary means required for the success in serving and leading the nation
- To engage actively in communication, partnership, collaboration and good relation with various components of the nation to strengthen unity in achieving the agenda of reform
- To pioneer reform in political, governmental, bureaucratic, judiciary and military systems that are committed toward the strengthening of democracy
- To encourage the creation of work opportunity for all fields of life to alleviate poverty and encourage equal distribution of wealth through poor community empowerment program and informal sectors
- To make education available for all people. Building an integrated, comprehensive and qualified national system of education to bring up highly competitive human resources and professional educators
- To develop public political awareness, to offer advocacy, services and empowerment of the rights of Citizens
- To build wide international acceptance where PKS is considered as one the major national political powers

PANCASILA, ISLAMIC SHARI'A & SECULARISM

What is the view of PKS on Pancasila?

Pancasila is the five principles of the Indonesian state philosophy formed by the founding fathers of this great nation. The principles in Pancasila do not contradict with the tenets of Islam. Consequently, it should be accepted and should not cause a concern. The first principle "Belief in the one and only God", for an instance, is the ultimate principle in Islam. Democracy, humanity and social justice, as mentioned in the other principles in Pancasila, are also in good agreement with the principles of Islam, such as Shura, Islam as Mercy unto mankind, plurality. As a conclusion, no contradiction exists between them.

Many people in the West are worried about the implementation of Islamic Shari'a, what does PKS respond to this?

Islam is *Rahmatan lil 'Alamin* (Mercy unto Mankind) and the followers of Islam are called, by Qur'anic term, as *Ummatan Wasatan* (the Middle/Moderate Nation). Islam invites people to do good deeds and forbid wrong doings, and encourages justice for all. PKS believes that these values are also shared by other religions and beliefs exist on this world. Therefore, there should not be any worry about the conduct of certain religion and its followers, including Islam and the Muslims. Furthermore, there has been misunderstanding and misportrayed about Islam and Muslims. The problems have been worsen by attitudes of certain 'religious' groups. Islamic Shari'a cannot be understood by fractions and considered only certain aspects. In the West, Shari'a means stone-throwing, cutting-off hands, body-whipping, and beheaded. These are not incorrect totally, but constitute only very tiny fractions of Islamic Shari'a consequences. It is also needed to be understood that actually more 90% of Islamic Shari'a contents do not rely on formal legislations, but more related towards operational, human relations and social aspects, such as defending motherland; being good to neighbours and environment; having attitude of anti corruption. Hence, either we are aware or not, whether we understand and agree with Islamic Shari'a or not, and as it is inline with human nature, we already implement Islamic Shari'a in our life for long time. Therefore, with regard to the issue on the implementation of Islamic Shari'a, PKS encourage mutual dialog and communications to bridge the gap in understanding about Islam.

Does PKS intend to implement Islamic Shari'a in Indonesia?

It should be crystal clear, that formal implementation of Islamic Shari'a does not exist in the purpose of establishing the party, as well as in

the vision and mission of the party. Furthermore, the values and teachings of Islam have already been adopted by community for a long time and implemented in daily life. Only a tiny fractions of Islamic Shari'a require public consensus and must be adopted through formal legislation. Hence, if the Indonesian nation cannot come to a consensus, then Islamic Shari'a cannot be formally implemented. Any political party, including PKS, Golkar party, PDI-P, PDS, etc, cannot force the implementation of certain regulations towards their people unless they are formally adopted by the state. Also, there are much more important issues need to be addressed by PKS if they are trusted to lead this big nation, such as poverty alleviation, war against corruption, collusion and nepotism, disaster management, climate changes, global warming, illegal trafficking of human and drugs, trans-national crimes, money laundering , border disputes, disintegration threats.

MINORITY GROUPS, TERRORISM & ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS

What is the attitude of PKS towards the minorities?

Indonesia, whose people are mostly Muslims, has minorities who believe in Christian, Hinduism, Buddhism and other faiths. The country already believes in the freedom in the religion in terms of belief and practices. Included in this matter is the voluntary wearing of Hijab by female Muslim workers in their work place and students at their schools. Unfortunately, this has not been the case in some countries.

What is the position of the PKS in regards to capital punishment in Islam, for example the stoning of adulterers or the chopping off of hands or heads?

One of the purposes of law enforcement in Islam is to guard and educate people not to commit crimes. Under Shari'a, there are three types of crimes, namely: *ta'zir*, *qishas* and *hudud*. It is a misperception to say all crimes will merit capital punishment. *Ta'zir* is an offense, but a less serious crime. Perpetrators could be sentenced by a judge. *Qishas* is an offense committed by people who commit more serious crimes (e.g. robbery, slaughtering) than *ta'zir*. If the victim or family of victim forgives the perpetrator, then he will not be executed. *Hudud*, is the most serious crime against Allah (e.g. adultery). The punishment has already been constituted in the Qur'an and the text of Sunnah, the prosecutors only refer to available capital punishments embedded in Qur'an and Sunnah.