

## Majlis Perundingan Malaysia Agama Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh dan Tao

Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism

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## MCCBCHST - Dr Zakir Naik's words and talks are highly provocative to Non-Muslim faith communities

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST), express our profound regret that the relevant Malaysian governmental authorities have chosen to ignore all representations and reports as to dangers and threats to harmony posed by visiting Speaker Dr Zakir Naik.

Dr Zakir's words and talks are highly provocative to Non- Muslim faith communities.

He has been banned from entry to certain countries. In his own country he has been subject to various Court summonses. Malaysia has a reputation of being a tolerant, Multi religious and a pluralistic democracy. It also positions herself as a moderate Muslim polity. Purported teachers of religion that are sponsored even by State authorities that has a tendency to incite hatred, odium and contempt on the practices, rituals and food of other religio -ethnic groups is totally unacceptable. It threatens to the way of life of all peace loving people and our mutual co – existence we have enjoyed for decades in our beloved nation.

The words and actions may also be a clear contravention of the provisions of the Malaysian Penal Code (sections 298 & 298A).

As Parliament has laid down wisely that it is a criminal offence to

- With deliberate intent wounds the religious feelings of any person by way of words, sound or gestures
- By words, spoken or written by any act, activity or conduct to cause disharmony, disunity or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill will or
- Prejudices, or attempts to prejudice the maintenance of harmony or unity
- On grounds of religion, between persons or groups of persons professing same or different religions

The Council supports freedom of speech and expression but any discourse touching on religion and beliefs should be subject to the parameters set forth in the Penal Code generally and more specifically to the bar of public reason and civility.

MCCBCHST, therefore calls upon the Government to withdraw the visa granted to Dr Zakir Naik to be in Malaysia

Dated: 3 March 2017

Ven. Dato' Seri Jit Heng

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