

PRAYER NEWSLETTER**A. KEY EVENTS TO COVER IN PRAYER**

No	Event	Date	Highlights
1.	Parliamentary Sitting	May 18 - June 16	Parliament will sit for 16 days again. Among the significant issues are:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The 11th Malaysia Plan to be tabled on May 21, 2015.2. The Private Member's Bill on Hudud deferred from the last Parliamentary sitting, is expected to be in the order paper.3. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants (Amendment) Act 2015 bill will also be tabled.
2.	PAS Party Polls Election	June 3 – June 6	PAS (Parti Islam Se Malaysia) will be having its party polls election during its 61st Muktamar in Kuala Selangor, from June 3 to 6. A significant event as the conservative “Ulama” faction battles the progressives to gain control of the future of the party.
3.	Celebration of Harvest Festivals	May 30 - June 2	Sabah will be celebrating Kaamatan from May 30-31 while Sarawak will celebrate Hari Gawai from June 1-2.

B. ITEMS FOR PRAYER**1. Parliamentary Sitting**

- a. Pray that sufficient time be given to debate bills and to ensure that critical bills are not bulldozed through in the early morning hours, but done respectfully and responsibly giving due regard to the high office of governing the nation;
- b. Pray that the government backbenchers will be open to constructive criticisms and that the opposition Members of Parliament will give positive suggestions and not criticize for the sake of criticizing.

2. 11th Malaysia Plan

- a. The 11th Malaysia Plan from 2016 to 2020 is the last phase of the development plan to raise Malaysia to high income status and this plan will prioritise poverty eradication, education, security, public transportation and rural infrastructure;
- b. As for education, there will be a special focus on technical and vocational education and training, which will be reinforced by the Education Blueprint.
- c. Pray that the government will be committed to the following:-
 - i. Reducing inequality and relative poverty across all races, and beyond just nice plans on paper;
 - ii. Serious in implementing structural reforms that will reduce corruption, decrease leakages and increase competitiveness;
 - iii. Open dialogue regarding the strengths and weaknesses of all the plans which are presented by the government and will provide sufficient time for quality debate;
 - iv. To take constructive criticisms and suggestions from the Opposition Members of Parliament.

3. PAS' Private Member's Bill On Hudud Is Expected to Be On the Order Paper

- a. PAS-ruled Kelantan passed key amendments to its Syariah criminal code on March 19 at the state level, in a move to enable the eventual implementation of Hudud in the Muslim-majority state. It was passed at state level with full support of the UMNO assemblymen who sit in the opposition of the state assembly. At the last sitting in Parliament, a Private Member's Bill on Hudud was submitted for tabling but it was deferred. Pray that if it is the order paper, that it will not be tabled at this upcoming Parliament sitting either.
- b. Pray against covert plans to implement Syariah laws via the various state administrations with the intention to eventually Islamise the Federal Constitution.

4. PAS Party Polls Election

- a. The highly anticipated PAS party poll elections will be a key point in determining the party's future direction, whether it will continue working with the opposition coalition , Pakatan Rakyat, or to chart its own political path, or possibly working

with UMNO, which has betrayed them before in the past when PAS joined the coalition government briefly in 1978.

Latest party nominations reveal the growing popularity of the conservative “Ulama” faction, with many being nominated into the central committee, with the progressives falling far behind.

- b. Pray for the following:-
 - i. The Islamic world today is racked by infighting and mindless violence caused by extremism. Pray that God will intervene so that the election will result in the appointment of wise and moderate leaders from this party, and prevent extremists from gaining a foothold in the central committee of the party, its decision making organ.
 - ii. Pray that new leaders are raised who are able to steer the nation towards a progressive path, and have the integrity to avoid playing the religious card just to gain ground in its Muslim stronghold;
 - iii. Pray that in the politicking between UMNO and PAS to constantly outmanoeuvre each other, in order to establish their Muslim credentials for political mileage, God would protect the nation from imploding from rising racial and religious extremism.

5. The Potential Danger Of A PAS/UMNO Partnership

- a. Following the demise of Nik Aziz, overtures have been made by UMNO to PAS to work more closely to advance a common Malay and Islamic agenda. Many observers think that such partnership, if formed, will lead to a fundamental rewriting of our constitution and laws which would be highly detrimental to our nation. If indeed this is the case, then let us pray that such moves will be thwarted.
- b. Pray that covert united efforts by PAS & UMNO to push through Hudud via Kelantan will fail. Pray too that non-Muslim minorities and minorities within the Muslim community will be protected from further erosion of their constitutional rights.

6. Political and Economic Headwinds

- a. Pray for justice and righteousness to prevail in this nation.

- b. Given the financial, economic and political turmoil as a result of the mishandling of the highly leveraged government-backed fund 1MDB, the confusion that arose from the launch of the Goods and Services Tax, and potential spill-over from the spat between the current Prime Minister and the former Prime Minister, let us pray that every corrupt and evil political agenda be exposed and dealt with swiftly.
- c. Pray that more moderate Malaysians will continue to speak up to prevent an escalation of extremism, a deterioration of rights, and a demand for greater governance and accountability.
- d. Pray that the nation's wealth be protected given the challenging global and domestic climate.

7. Harvest Festivals for Sabah and Sarawak

- a. Pray for safe travels as the Sabahans and Sarawakians return home to celebrate Gawai and Kaamatan. Pray for families to be restored, relationships healed and a time of great rejoicing in their reunion celebration. Pray that Christians will live out exemplary and holy lives during this period. Pray that during this time of festivities, Christians will be salt and light. Pray especially for young people to exercise caution and care not to be exposed to the dangers of rice wine, which is one of the key factors driving poverty, alcoholism, social problems and criminal activity, or taking part in certain harvest rituals, which will entrap them into demonic influences.
- b. Pray for the indigenous church, that they may continue to grow in spiritual maturity and be a blessing to the nation. Pray for more pastors and leaders to be raised, strong in the Word of God, able to teach and lead the next generation.

8. Bill of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants (Amendment) Act 2015

- a. Pray for constructive debates over long overdue amendments to the Anti-Trafficking Act. Pray that these amendments will not conflate the serious rights abuse of human trafficking and will address properly the immigration violation of people smuggling too.

- b. Pray that Malaysia will be fully committed to combating human trafficking and instil best practices in every level of government dealing with refugees and migrants, such as the police, immigration and the navy.
- c. Pray for the protection of migrants and refugees, especially children with no papers to allow them to be educated.
- d. Pray too for the massive humanitarian crisis overflowing from the discovery of human trafficking camps in Southern Thailand. Pray for all evil deeds to be exposed, the people freed and find full restoration. Pray for nations to be compassionate.
- e. Pray also that Malaysia will ratify the UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, which it has not.