

# A BILL

## *i n t i t u l e d*

An Act to amend the Printing of Qur’anic Texts Act 1986.

[ ]

**ENACTED** by the Parliament of Malaysia as follows:

### **Short title and commencement**

**1.** (1) This Act may be cited as the Printing of Qur’anic Texts (Amendment) Act 2023.

(2) This Act comes into operation on a date to be appointed by the Minister by notification in the *Gazette*.

### **Amendment of section 2**

**2.** The Printing of Qur’anic Texts Act 1986 [Act 326], which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Act, is amended in section 2—

- (a) in the definition of “Qur’anic material”, by inserting after the words “any Qur’anic Verse,” the words “whether in Arabic writing or Braille,”; and
- (b) in the definition of “Qur’anic text”, by inserting after the words “or any part thereof” the words “, whether in Arabic writing or Braille,”.

**Amendment of section 3****3.** Section 3 of the principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsections (2) and (3), by substituting for the words “and Labuan” the words “, Labuan and Putrajaya”;

(b) by substituting for subsection (4) the following subsection:

“(4) Each appointed member shall serve for a term not exceeding three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.”; and

(c) by inserting after subsection (4) the following subsection:

“(4A) A member of the Lembaga may, at any time, resign from his office by giving a written notice to the Lembaga and the Lembaga shall obtain the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the respective Rulers, as the case may be.”.

**New section 3A****4.** The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 3 the following section:**“Alternate member**

**3A.** (1) The Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the respective Rulers may, in respect of each member appointed under subsection (3), appoint an alternate member who may attend any meeting of the Lembaga when the member whom he is an alternate member is for any reason unable to attend.

(2) When attending the meeting of the Lembaga, an alternate member shall, for all purposes, be deemed to be a member of the Lembaga.

(3) An alternate member may, at any time, resign from his office by giving a written notice to the Lembaga and the Lembaga shall obtain the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the respective Rulers, as the case may be.

(4) An alternate member shall, unless he sooner resigns under subsection (3) or his appointment is sooner revoked, cease to be an alternate member when the member in respect of whom he is an alternate member ceases to be a member of the Lembaga.”.

#### **Amendment of section 5**

**5.** Section 5 of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (6), by substituting for the words “ten thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding three years” the words “fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years”; and
- (b) in subsection (7), by substituting for the words “five thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding one year” the words “fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years”.

#### **Amendment of section 6**

**6.** Section 6 of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1), by inserting after the word “correct” the words “and in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga”; and
- (b) in subsection (3), by substituting for the words “ten thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding three years” the words “fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years”.

#### **Amendment of section 7**

**7.** Section 7 of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1), by inserting after the word “correct” the words “and in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga”; and

- (b) in subsection (2), by substituting for the words “ten thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding three years” the words “fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years”.

#### **New sections 7A and 7B**

8. The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 7 the following sections:

**“Withholding delivery of imported Qur’anic text which is not certified**

7A. (1) Any police officer not below the rank of Inspector or any public officer authorized in writing by the Islamic Religious Council of any State or Federal Territory, may withhold the delivery of any imported Qur’anic text which is not certified in writing by the Lembaga under section 7.

(2) Any Qur’anic text withheld under subsection (1) shall, as soon as practicable, be delivered to the Lembaga and be examined by the Lembaga.

(3) Where the Lembaga certify that the Qur’anic text—

- (a) is correct and in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga in respect of the Qur’anic Verses contained therein, the Lembaga shall allow the importation subject to the certification under section 7 and give notice in writing to the person from whom the Qur’anic text was withheld requiring the person to claim or collect the Qur’anic text not later than six months from the date of the notice; or
- (b) contains any error or is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga in respect of the Qur’anic Verses contained therein, the Lembaga shall prohibit the importation and give notice in writing to the person from whom the Qur’anic text was withheld requiring the person to return the Qur’anic text to the sender outside Malaysia not later than three months from the date of the notice.

(4) Where the person from whom the Qur'anic text was withheld fails to claim or collect the Qur'anic text within six months from the date of the notice under paragraph (3)(a) or fails to return the Qur'anic text to the sender outside Malaysia within three months from the date of the notice under paragraph (3)(b), as the case may be, the Qur'anic text shall be disposed of in any manner the Lembaga thinks fit.

### **Withholding delivery of imported Qur'anic material**

**7B.** (1) Any police officer not below the rank of Inspector or any public officer authorized in writing by the Islamic Religious Council of any State or Federal Territory, may withhold the delivery of any imported Qur'anic material if he has reasonable cause to believe that it contains any error or it is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga in respect of the Qur'anic Verses contained in the Qur'anic material.

(2) Any Qur'anic material withheld under subsection (1) shall, as soon as practicable, be delivered to the Lembaga and be examined by the Lembaga.

(3) Where the Lembaga certify that the Qur'anic material —

(a) is correct and in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga in respect of the Qur'anic Verses contained therein, the Lembaga shall allow the importation and give notice in writing to the person from whom the Qur'anic material was withheld requiring the person to claim or collect the Qur'anic material not later than six months from the date of the notice; or

(b) contains any error or is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga in respect of the Qur'anic Verses contained therein, the Lembaga shall prohibit the importation and give notice in writing to the person from whom the Qur'anic material was withheld requiring the person to return the Qur'anic material to the sender outside Malaysia not later than three months of the date of the notice.

(4) Where the person from whom the Qur’anic material was withheld fails to claim or collect the Qur’anic material within six months from the date of the notice under paragraph (3)(a) or fails to return the Qur’anic material to the sender outside Malaysia within three months of the notice under paragraph (3)(b), as the case may be, the Qur’anic material shall be disposed of in any manner as the Lembaga thinks fit.”.

### **Amendment of section 8**

**9.** Subsection 8(3) of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) by substituting for the words “twenty thousand ringgit” the words “fifty thousand ringgit”; and
- (b) in the English language text, by inserting after the word “imprisonment” the words “for a term”.

### **Amendment of section 9**

**10.** Subsection 9(2) of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) by substituting for the words “twenty thousand ringgit” the words “fifty thousand ringgit”; and
- (b) in the English language text, by inserting after the word “imprisonment” the words “for a term”.

### **Amendment of section 10**

**11.** Section 10 of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1), in the national language text, by deleting the words “atau rakaman Al-Qur’an” and “atau rakaman”; and
- (b) in subsection (2), by substituting for the words “two thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding six months” the words “fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years”.

### **Amendment of section 11**

**12.** Subsection 11(3) of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “five thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding one year” the words “fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years”.

### **Amendment of section 13**

**13.** Subsection 13(2) of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “five thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding two years” the words “fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years”.

### **Amendment of section 14**

**14.** Section 14 of the principal Act is amended—

(a) in the shoulder note, by inserting after the word “**Printing**” the words “, **distribution and possession**”;

(b) by substituting for subsection (1) the following subsection:

“(1) No person shall print, publish, import, sell, offer for sale, distribute, or has in his possession, custody or control for the purpose of sale or distribution, any Qur’anic text or Qur’anic material which contains any error or is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga in respect of the Qur’anic Verses contained in the Qur’anic text or Qur’anic material.”; and

(c) in subsection (2)—

(i) by substituting for the words “twenty thousand ringgit” the words “fifty thousand ringgit”; and

(ii) in the English language text, by inserting after the word “imprisonment” the words “for a term”.

**New section 14A**

**15.** The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 14 the following section:

**“Power to investigate**

**14A.** (1) Any police officer not below the rank of Inspector or any public officer authorized in writing by the Islamic Religious Council of any State or Federal Territory, may investigate any offence under this Act.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, any public officer authorized in writing by the Islamic Religious Council of any State or Federal Territory, shall have all the powers of a police officer of whatever rank as provided for in the Criminal Procedure Code [*Act 593*] in relation to police investigation in seizable cases, and such powers shall be in addition to the powers provided for in this Act and not in derogation thereof.”.

**Amendment of section 15**

**16.** Subsection 15(1) of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “, that there is any error in the Qur’anic Verses contained in the Qur’anic text of Qur’anic material,” the words “that there is any error or it is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga, in respect of the Qur’anic Verses contained in the Qur’anic text or Qur’anic material,”.

**Amendment of section 17**

**17.** Section 17 of the principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) by substituting for the words “and detain” the words “, detain and search”; and

(ii) by inserting after the words “published,” the words “imported,” wherever appearing; and

(b) in subsections (2), (3) and (4), by inserting after the words “publication,” the words “importation,”.



**Amendment of section 18**

**18.** Section 18 of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) in paragraph (a), by inserting after the word “correct” the words “and in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga”; and
- (b) in paragraph (b), by inserting after the words “any error” the words “or that it is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga”.

**New section 20A**

**19.** The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 20 the following section:

**“Compounding of offences**

**20A.** (1) The Minister may, with the approval of the Public Prosecutor, make regulations for prescribing—

- (a) any offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder, as an offence which may be compounded; and
- (b) the method and procedure for compounding such offence.

(2) The Chairman of the Lembaga or any public officer authorized in writing by the Chairman of the Lembaga may, with the consent in writing of the Public Prosecutor, at any time before a charge is being instituted, compound any offence prescribed as an offence which may be compounded under this Act by making a written offer to the person suspected to have committed the offence to compound the offence upon payment to the Chairman of the Lembaga of an amount of money not exceeding fifty per centum of the amount of maximum fine for that offence within such time as may be specified in the written offer.

(3) An offer under subsection (2) may be made at any time after the offence has been committed but before any prosecution for it has been instituted.

(4) If the amount specified in the offer is not paid within the time specified in the offer or such extended time as the Chairman of the Lembaga may grant, prosecution for the offence may be instituted at any time after that against the person to whom the offer was made.

(5) Where an offence has been compounded under subsection (2)—

- (a) no prosecution shall be instituted in respect of the offence against the person to whom the offer to compound was made; and
- (b) any Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material, document, record or anything seized in connection with the offence may be forfeited and disposed of or released by the Chairman of the Lembaga, subject to such terms and conditions as the Chairman of the Lembaga thinks fit.

(6) All moneys received by the Chairman of Lembaga under this section shall be paid into and form part of the Federal Consolidated Fund.”.

### **New sections 21A and 21B**

**20.** The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 21 the following sections:

#### **“Public servant**

**21A.** The members of the Lembaga while discharging their duties or performing their functions or exercising their powers under this Act or any regulations made under this Act shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Penal Code [*Act 574*].

#### **Application of Public Authorities Protection Act 1948**

**21B.** The Public Authorities Protection Act 1948 [*Act 198*] shall apply to any action, suit, prosecution or proceedings against the Lembaga or any member of the Lembaga in respect of any act, neglect or default done or committed by it or him in good faith or any omission by it or him in good faith, in such capacity.”.

**New section 26**

**21.** The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 25 the following section:

**“Power to issue guidelines or directives**

**26.** (1) For the purposes of this Act or the subsidiary legislation made under this Act, the Lembaga may issue guideline or directive as it considers appropriate to regulate the printing, importation, publication, sale, distribution, disposal, translation or interpretation of Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material and may impose any condition or restriction as the Lembaga thinks fit.

(2) Every guideline or directive issued under this Act or the subsidiary legislation made under this Act shall be published by the Lembaga in such manner as to ensure that the guideline or directive is brought to the attention of the person who has to comply with such guideline or directive.

(3) The Lembaga may impose a financial penalty for any non-compliance of any guideline or directive issued under this section—

(a) where such person is an individual, to an amount not exceeding twenty five thousand ringgit; or

(b) where such person is a body corporate, to an amount not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit.

(4) The Lembaga may amend or revoke any guideline or directive issued under this section.”.

**Saving**

**22.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, the members of the Lembaga appointed before the date of coming into operation of this Act shall continue to hold office for a period of six months from the date of coming into operation of this Act.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Printing of Qur'anic Texts Act 1986 ("Act 326") is to strengthen the enforcement powers of the public officer authorized under Act 326 and to increase the amount of penalty for offences under Act 326.

2. *Clause 1* contains the short title and provision on the commencement of the proposed Act.

3. *Clause 2* seeks to amend section 2 of Act 326 in the definitions of "Qur'anic material" and "Qur'anic text" to expand the definitions to also include Braille other than the Arabic writing.

4. *Clause 3* seeks to amend section 3 of Act 326.

*Subclause 3(a)* seeks to amend subsections 3(2) and 3(3) of Act 326 to clarify that the member of the Board representing the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Labuan also represents Putrajaya which is part of the Federal Territories.

*Subclause 3(b)* seeks to amend subsection 3(4) of Act 326 to provide that the appointed members of the Lembaga shall serve for a term not exceeding three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

*Subclause 3(c)* seeks to introduce a new subsection 3(4A) into Act 326 to provide that a member of the Lembaga may resign from his office by giving a written notice to the Lembaga and the Lembaga shall obtain the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the respective Rulers, as the case may be.

5. *Clause 4* seeks to introduce a new section 3A into Act 326 to empower the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the respective Rulers to appoint an alternate member who may attend any meeting of the Lembaga when the member in respect of whom he is an alternate member is for any reason unable to attend. The proposed section 3A also seeks to provide that an alternate member may resign from his office by giving written notice to the Lembaga and the Lembaga shall obtain the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the respective Rulers, as the case may be. The alternate member shall cease to be an alternate member when the member in respect of whom he is an alternate member ceases to be a member of the Lembaga.

6. *Clause 5* seeks to amend section 5 of Act 326.

*Subclause 5(a)* seeks to amend subsection 5(6) of Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of printing or assisting in printing, or publishing or assisting in publishing, any Qur'anic text without a licence issued by the Lembaga from a fine not exceeding ten thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding three years to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

*Subclause 5(b)* seeks to amend subsection 5(7) of Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of failing to comply with or breaching any condition attached to the licence issued under section 5 of Act 326 from a fine not exceeding five thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding one year to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

7. *Clause 6* seeks to amend section 6 of Act 326.

*Subclause 6(a)* seeks to amend subsection 6(1) of the Act 326 to specify that the Qur'anic Verses contained in the final proof or original copy of any Qur'anic text submitted to the Lembaga prior to its printing or publishing shall also be certified by the Lembaga that it is in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga.

*Subclause 6(b)* seeks to amend subsection 6(3) of the Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of printing or publishing any Qur'anic text which is not certified by the Lembaga from a fine not exceeding ten thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding three years to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

8. *Clause 7* seeks to amend section 7 of Act 326.

*Subclause 7(a)* seeks to amend subsection 7(1) of Act 326 to specify that the Qur'anic Verses contained in the copy of Qur'anic text submitted to the Lembaga prior to its importation shall also be certified by the Lembaga that it is in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga.

*Subclause 7(b)* seeks to amend subsection 7(2) of Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of importing for sale or distributing any Qur'anic text which is not certified in writing by the Lembaga from a fine not exceeding ten thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding three years to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

9. *Clause 8* seeks to introduce new sections 7A and 7B into Act 326. The proposed section 7A seeks to empower any police officer not below the rank of Inspector or any public officer authorized in writing by the Islamic Religious Council of any State or Federal Territory, to withhold the delivery of any imported Qur'anic text which is not certified in writing by the Lembaga under section 7 of Act 326, and require them to deliver the Qur'anic text to the Lembaga to be examined by the Lembaga. The proposed section 7A also seeks to provide for the procedure to be taken by the Lembaga after examining the Qur'anic text.

The proposed section 7B seeks to empower any police officer not below the rank of Inspector or any public officer authorized in writing by the Islamic Religious Council of any State or Federal Territory, to withhold the delivery of any imported Qur'anic material, if he has reasonable cause to believe that it contains any error or it is not in accordance with the writing methods

determined by the Lembaga in respect of the Qur'anic Verses contained in the Qur'anic material, and require them to deliver the Qur'anic material to the Lembaga to be examined by the Lembaga. The proposed section 7B also seeks to provide for the procedure to be taken by the Lembaga after examining the Qur'anic material.

10. *Clause 9* seeks to amend subsection 8(3) of Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of printing or assisting in printing, or publishing or assisting in publishing, any Qur'anic text which does not comply with the requirements of subsection 8(1) of Act 326 or in which any information or statement required to be borne under subsection 8(1) of Act 326 is false from a fine not exceeding twenty thousand ringgit to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit.

11. *Clause 10* seeks to amend subsection 9(2) of Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of printing or publishing any Qur'anic text which differs, in respect of the Qur'anic Verses contained therein, from the corresponding Verses as certified to be correct by the Lembaga under section 6 of Act 326 from a fine not exceeding twenty thousand ringgit to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit.

12. *Clause 11* seeks to amend section 10 of Act 326.

*Subclause 11(a)* seeks to amend subsection 10(1) of Act 326 for the purpose of consistency in both of the national language and English language texts.

*Subclause 11(b)* seeks to amend subsection 10(2) of Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of failing to deliver one copy of the Qur'anic text printed to the Lembaga and failing to keep one copy thereof from a fine not exceeding two thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding six months to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

13. *Clause 12* seeks to amend subsection 11(3) of Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of failing to ensure that any waste material on which there is printed or there appears any Qur'anic Verse is immediately destroyed and does not leave the printing premises except when being removed to a place to be destroyed from a fine not exceeding five thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding one year to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

14. *Clause 13* seeks to amend subsection 13(2) of Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of failing to bear conspicuously on the first or last printed leaf of any Qur'anic text or in the case of a recorded text, at a conspicuous part of the text, the information specified in subsection 8(1) of Act 326 or the certificate specified in subsection 12(3) of Act 326, by the person who sells, offers for sale, distributes or publishes, or has in his possession, custody or control for the purpose of sale or distribution, any Qur'anic text from a fine not exceeding five thousand ringgit or to imprisonment not exceeding two years to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

15. *Clause 14* seeks to amend section 14 of Act 326.

*Subclause 14(b)* seeks to amend subsection 14(1) of Act 326 to prohibit any person from printing, publishing, importing, selling, offering for sale, distributing or having in his possession, custody or control for the purpose of sale or distribution, any Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material which contains any error or is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga, in respect of Qur'anic Verses contained in the Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material.

*Subclause 14(c)* seeks to amend subsection 14(2) of Act 326 to increase the penalty for the offence of printing, publishing, importing, selling, offering for sale, distributing, or having in possession, custody or control for the purpose of sale or distribution of, any Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material which contains any error or is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga, in respect of Qur'anic Verses contained in the Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material from a fine not exceeding twenty thousand ringgit to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgit.

16. *Clause 15* seeks to introduce a new section 14A into Act 326 to empower any police officer not below the rank of an Inspector or any public officer authorized in writing by the Islamic Religious Council of any State or Federal Territory, to investigate any offences under Act 326 who shall have all the powers of a police officer of whatever rank as provided for in the Criminal Procedure Code in relation to police investigation in seizable cases, and such powers shall be in addition to the powers provided for in Act 326 and not in derogation thereof.

17. *Clause 16* seeks to amend subsection 15(1) of Act 326 to empower the court to order the forfeiture of any Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material which is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga where a person is charged with any offence under Act 326 or regulations made thereunder, notwithstanding that no person is convicted of any offence or that no offence is proven.

18. *Clause 17* seeks to amend section 17 of Act 326.

*Subclause 17(a)* seeks to amend subsection 17(1) of Act 326 to expand the enforcement power of any police officer not below the rank of Inspector or any public officer authorized in writing by the Islamic Religious Council of any State or Federal Territory to include the power to search. The power to seize, detain and search of any Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material found in the possession of any person may also be exercised if the police officer or the public officer has reasonable cause to believe that it has been imported in contravention of Act 326 or any condition attached to the licence in section 5 of Act 326.

*Subclause 17(b)* seeks to amend subsections 17(2), (3) and (4) of Act 326 to specify that any police officer not below the rank of Inspector or any public officer authorized in writing by the Islamic Religious Council of any State or Federal Territory may apply for a warrant from a Magistrate or a Sessions Court Judge empowering such officer to enter upon any premises and search for,

seize and detain any Qur'anic text and Qur'anic material which the importation is unlawful under Act 326. Such application for warrant shall be supported by an information to the effect that there is reasonable cause for suspecting that there is in the premises any Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material the importation of which is unlawful under Act 326.

19. *Clause 18* seeks to amend section 18 of Act 326 to require the Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material seized and detained under section 17 of Act 326 to be returned to the person from whom it was seized not later than six months from the date of the seizure if the Lembaga certifies it to be in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga or to be disposed of in any manner the Lembaga deems fit if the Lembaga certifies that it is not in accordance with the writing method determined by the Lembaga.

20. *Clause 19* seeks to introduce a new section 20A into Act 326 to empower the Minister, with the approval of the Public Prosecutor, to make regulations prescribing compoundable offences under Act 326 or any regulations made under Act 326, the criteria for compounding such offences and the method and procedure for compounding such offences. The proposed section 20A also seeks to empower the Chairman of the Lembaga or any person authorized in writing by the Chairman of the Lembaga to compound the offences with the consent in writing of the Public Prosecutor.

21. *Clause 20* seeks to introduce new sections 21A and 21B into Act 326. The proposed section 21A seeks to provide that all members of the Lembaga, while discharging their duties or performing their functions or exercising their powers, shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Penal Code. The proposed section 21B seeks to provide for the application of the Public Authorities Protection Act 1948 to any action, suit, prosecution or proceedings against the Lembaga or any member of the Lembaga in respect of any act, neglect or default done or committed by it or him in good faith or any omission by it or him in good faith, in such capacity.

22. *Clause 21* seeks to introduce a new section 26 into Act 326. The proposed section 26 seeks to empower the Lembaga to issue guidelines or directives as the Lembaga considers appropriate to regulate the printing, importation, publication, sale, distribution, disposal, translation or interpretation of Qur'anic text or Qur'anic material. This new provision will facilitate the implementation of good practices in a shorter time frame. This new provision also allows the Lembaga to impose financial penalties for any non-compliance of any guideline or directive issued by the Lembaga.

23. *Clause 22* seeks to provide for the saving provision.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This Bill will not involve the Government in any extra financial expenditure.

[PN(U2)3039]