

Violation of an Islamic principle

READING reports on the alleged burglary and sex assault by a Malaysian diplomat in New Zealand was devastating.

Media all over the world are reporting this. This incident, especially involving a Muslim, is a violation of one of the most basic principles in Islam, which is *amanah* (trust or trustworthiness).

Diplomats should hold on to this principle more strictly as their acts not only affects themselves, but also tarnishes the image of the country and religion.

In Islam, the concept of *amanah* is not just paying lip service to it but is something that should come from the heart. The status and importance of *amanah* among Muslims is stated in the Sahihs of al-Bukhari and Muslim.

In the Musnad of Ahmad, there is a narration from Saidina Huzaifah saying that, Prophet Muhammad had told us about two things. One of these we have already witnessed with our own eyes. The unfolding of the other is still awaited. The

first thing was that, "First of all, *amanah* was sent down into the hearts of the men of faith. Then, the Quran was revealed and the people of faith acquired knowledge from the Quran and practise from the Sunnah."

It is important for Muslims to fulfil the obligations and duties that give pride to the doer, religion and country.

It has long been accepted by scholars that *amanah* includes everything one is entrusted with by the syariah, from obligations and prohibitions, and every state of life which relates to this world or the hereafter.

An *amanah* worker will always remember that any wrongdoing will reduce his own reward and affect the judgment in the hereafter. Muslims should go back to basics — remember that we live in a temporary world but will live forever in the hereafter.

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