

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Rukun Tetangga Act 2012.

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ENACTED by the Parliament of Malaysia as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Rukun Tetangga (Amendment) Act 2025.

(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 Rukun Tetangga Act 2012 [*Act 751*], which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Act, is amended in section 2 by inserting after the definition of “Minister” the following definition:

‘ “person who has interest”, in relation to an Area, means a person —

- (a) who owns or has any type of property, whether residential, commercial, industrial or agricultural property or otherwise in the Area;

- (b) who carries on a business in the Area, or is employed or has a place of employment in the Area;
- (c) who holds any position in any organization, association, institution or body which is established in the Area or which operates or carries out activities in the Area; or
- (d) who has a family relationship with any resident in the Area.’.

Amendment of section 3

3. Subsection 3(1) of the principal Act is amended by inserting after the words “a public servant” the words “performing the duties of the head of the department charged with the responsibility for Rukun Tetangga”.

Amendment of section 7

4. Section 7 of the principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (1)—

- (i) by substituting for the words “such number of persons” the words “such number of members”; and
- (ii) by substituting for the words “, persons who have interest in the Area and other persons, as may be approved by the Director” the words “or persons who have interest in the Area”;

(b) in subsection (3)—

- (i) by substituting for the words “A person” the words “A resident or person who has interest”;
- (ii) by inserting after the words “Rukun Tetangga Area Committee” the words “under subsection (1)”;

- (iii) in paragraph (d), by deleting the words “or a permanent resident”;

(c) in subsection (4)—

- (i) by substituting for the words “two years” the words “three years in respect of the same Area”; and

- (ii) by substituting for the words “three consecutive terms unless with the approval of the Director General” the words “two consecutive terms”; and

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

“(5) Notwithstanding subsection (4), a person who ceases to be a member of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee upon the expiry of his appointment for two consecutive terms under subsection (4) may, with the approval of the Director General, be reappointed for a further period not exceeding one term immediately after the expiry of his reappointment.”.

Substitution of section 9

5. The principal Act is amended by substituting for section 9 the following section:

“Revocation of appointment and resignation

9. (1) The appointment of a member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee under subsection 7(1) or of a member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee as the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary or Treasurer of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee under subsection 7(2) may at any time be revoked by the Director.

(2) A member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee appointed under subsection 7(1) may at any time resign his office by giving notice in writing to the Director.

(3) A member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee appointed under subsection 7(2) as the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary or Treasurer of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee may at any time resign his office as the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary or Treasurer by giving notice in writing to the Director.”.

Amendment of section 15

6. Subsection 15(1) of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “twenty residents of the Area of not less than eighteen years of age” the words “twenty persons, each of whom is a citizen and has attained the age of eighteen years and is either a resident or person who has interest in the Area”.

Amendment of section 17

7. Subsection 17(1) of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “A resident in an Area or a person who has interest in the Area or a person who has been approved by a Director” the words “A resident or person who has interest in an Area, and who is a citizen”.

Amendment of section 23

8. Subsection 23(2) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “or an employee not falling within the definition of that Act or that Ordinance whose wages per month exceed two thousand five hundred ringgit but do not exceed five thousand ringgit”.

Saving

9. (1) A member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee who is a permanent resident appointed immediately before the date of coming into operation of this Act shall, on the date of coming into operation of this Act, continue to be a member of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee until his appointment is revoked or expires.

(2) A member of a Voluntary Patrolling Scheme who is not a citizen and whose membership has been approved immediately before the date of coming into operation of this Act shall, on the date of coming into operation of this Act, continue to be a member of the Voluntary Patrolling Scheme until his membership is terminated.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Rukun Tetangga Act 2012 (“Act 751”).

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

3. *Clause 2* seeks to amend section 2 of Act 751 by introducing a new definition of “person who has interest” into Act 751. The proposed definition of “person who has interest” seeks to stipulate the criteria for determining persons who have interest in a Rukun Tetangga Area, primarily for the purpose of appointing members of Rukun Tetangga Area Committee and approving members of Voluntary Patrolling Scheme. Currently, under Act 751, the term “person who has interest” has not been defined and has led to broad interpretations as to who may be appointed as a member of Rukun Tetangga Area Committee or approved as a member of the Voluntary Patrolling Scheme. The proposed definition is intended to provide clear guidance, enhance transparency and ensure that only individuals who really have connection to a Rukun Tetangga Area may be considered to be appointed as members of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee or approved as members of the Voluntary Patrolling Scheme.

4. *Clause 3* seeks to amend subsection 3(1) of Act 751 to expressly provide that a public servant who is performing the duties of the head of the department charged with the responsibility for Rukun Tetangga shall be appointed as the Director General of Rukun Tetangga. This seeks to provide certainty in the appointment of the Director General of Rukun Tetangga.

5. *Clause 4* seeks to amend section 7 of Act 751.

Subclause 4(a) seeks to amend subsection 7(1) of Act 751 to provide that members of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee shall consist of such members comprising residents or persons who have interest only and to remove the provision which allow other persons as may be approved by the Director General to be a member.

Subclause 4(b) seeks to amend paragraph 7(3)(d) of Act 751 by deleting the term “permanent resident” referred to in that paragraph to clarify that only citizens are qualified to be appointed as members of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee.

Subclause 4(c) seeks to amend subsection 7(4) of Act 751 in relation to the term of appointment of a member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee. Currently, a member of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee shall hold office for a term not exceeding two years and shall be eligible for reappointment upon expiry of his term of office, but such member shall not be appointed for more than three consecutive terms unless with the approval of the Director General. With this amendment, the term of office of a member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee is extended from two years to three years and the member may be reappointed. However, such member shall not be appointed for more than two consecutive terms. A member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee may therefore hold office for a maximum period of six years.

Subclause 4(d) seeks to introduce a new subsection 7(5) into Act 751 to provide that, notwithstanding subsection 7(4) of Act 751 as amended, a person who ceases to be a member of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee upon the expiry of his appointment for two consecutive terms under subsection 7(4) may, with the approval of the Director General, be reappointed for a further period not exceeding one term immediately after the expiry of his appointment.

6. *Clause 5* seeks to substitute section 9 of Act 751 to provide for the revocation of appointment and resignation of a member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee appointed under subsection 7(1) of Act 751 and for the revocation of appointment and resignation of a member of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee as the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary or Treasurer of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee under subsection 7(2) of Act 751.

7. *Clause 6* seeks to amend subsection 15(1) of Act 751 in relation to application for operating a Voluntary Patrolling Scheme. Currently, under section 15 of Act 751, an application by the Chairman of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee to operate a Voluntary Patrolling Scheme in a Rukun Tetangga Area may only be made to the Director General of Rukun Tetangga if there is a request made to the Chairman of the Rukun Tetangga Area Committee by a group of not less than twenty residents of the Area of not less than eighteen years of age. With this amendment, such request to operate a Voluntary Patrolling Scheme may be made to the Chairman of a Rukun Tetangga Area Committee by a group of not less than twenty persons, each of whom is a citizen and has attained the age of eighteen years and is either a resident or persons who have interest in the Area.

8. *Clause 7* seeks to amend subsection 17(1) of Act 751 to provide that only residents and persons who have interest in the Rukun Tetangga Area, and who are citizens can make the application to be members of the Voluntary Patrolling Scheme.

9. *Clause 8* seeks to amend subsection 23(2) of Act 751 to streamline the reference to employees with the current provisions of the Employment Act 1955 [Act 265], the Sabah Labour Ordinance [Sabah Cap. 67] and the Sarawak Labour Ordinance [Sarawak Cap. 76], particularly concerning the questions on loss of remuneration for employees performing duties under the Voluntary Patrolling Scheme.

10. *Clause 9* deals with saving provision.
11. Other amendments not specifically dealt with in this Explanatory Statement are minor or consequential in nature.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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