

Islamic charity doesn't need special channel, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: There is no need to set up a specific channel to accumulate and disburse contributions made for the purpose of Islamic charity.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the existing means under the state religious councils are sufficient.

"We already have the respective channels but at the same time, if people come to us for donations, we should not tell them to ask from somebody else or get it from only one source.

"If we donate directly to the recipient, there will be a close relationship between the two parties, this is required by Islam. We cannot be too bureaucratic in this," Mahathir said.

He said this after launching the Malaysian Islamic Economic Development Foundation's (YPEIM) *Amal Jariah* (long-term charity) scheme at Pusat Islam here today.

He said the habit of *sedeqah* (giving charity) is widely practised in Malaysia despite the government's huge allocation for the people's welfare.

YPEIM trustee board chairman Dafuk Ahmad Tajudin Abdul Rahman said socio-economic development is not the responsibility of the government only. He said the corporate sector also should complement this effort through various programmes and schemes.

To date, he said, YPEIM has come out with various schemes which have benefited about two million recipients.