

01 DEC 2000

Mahathir-YPEIM

YPEIM POISED TO BE A VITAL INSTITUTION, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- The Malaysia Islamic Economic Development Foundation or YPEIM has all the potentials of becoming a vital and relevant institution symbolising the spirit of unity and mutual help, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The foundation's success in generating and managing community's charity contributions in kind and deed reflects such potentials for realising a large fund to be one of the sources of our future strength.

"Looking at the high degree of professionalism of its management, I am fully convinced that YPEIM is capable of orderly and efficient management of such a fund," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this when simultaneously launching the national-level month-long "Beramal Jariah" (good deed) campaign and the foundation's Amal Jariah scheme at Pusat Islam here today.

Other institutions involved in administering public contributions should emulate YPEIM's management capabilities, the prime minister said.

The foundation's emphasis on community development in its socio-economic activities was in line with the government's strategy for consolidating and generating national economic growth in the medium and long terms, he said.

The prime minister expressed full conviction that YPEIM remained the best channel for Muslims, including the corporate sector, to honour their social obligations.

The foundation's latest initiative, using the latest technology, gave Muslims new avenues for charity through such schemes as E-Jariah, Tele-Jariah and Auto-Jariah, he said.

These schemes, which he launched today, represented the best mechanism for society in the information technology and multimedia era to perform its obligations, the prime minister said.

The salary deduction and caring corporation schemes were the main schemes launched today.

He said the wide-spread practice of giving alms and doing charity service in Malaysia proved that doing good deed was not something new and alien to the society.

The government fully supported endeavours by the foundation to rekindle and nurture the culture of charity deeds, he said.

"I hope this initiative gets undivided support from society be it the public or private sector," he said.

"The government will extend whatever assistance needed to make this grand aspiration a reality," Dr Mahathir said.

When approached by reporters later, Dr Mahathir said management of all welfare services for Muslims in Malaysia was far orderly than most of the other Islamic countries.

On charity service and contributions, he said there was no need for a special channel or legislations that would only add to the bureaucratic red tape.

In fact, any one intending to make contributions could do so individually, he said.

The prime minister said there was also the good side of making contributions personally.

"We cannot be too bureaucratic in this matter," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was a need for greater transparency on the part of states administering accounts of welfare funds for Muslims as done in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, addressing the function earlier, YPEIM board of trustee chairman Datuk Ahmad Tajudin Abdul Rahman said two million people had

benefited from its socio-economic upliftment programmes.

These include the micro-credit, urban trading trust, and the pioneering entrepreneur schemes as well as those promoting excellence in the community and among orphans.

The foundation would need RM260 million to finance its on-going programmes in the next five years to benefit five million people, Tajudin said.

"This is rather substantial given the relevance of providing the infrastructure for scheme participants," he said.

The government set up YPEIM in October 1976 and was reorganised in July 1984 by Dr Mahathir so as to fully exploit the foundation's potentials and expand its role.

-- BERNAMA

RV HS ES RYN