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e-Syariah

ELECTRONIC SYSTEM TO SPEED UP SYARIAH COURT PROCEEDINGS

PUTRAJAYA, June 22 (Bernama) -- An electronic communications system to facilitate Syariah Court proceedings, called the "e-Syariah", is being developed in Malaysia and would be marketed to Islamic nations soon after its implementation in the country.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdullah Md Zin said the system is the first to be developed among Muslim nations and would help expedite the cases in the Syariah Justice Department.

The system would be promoted among those involved in Syariah Court administration in Islamic countries, including member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), by visiting the countries or inviting them to view it here, he told a media conference after witnessing the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Syariah Justice Department and five other government departments here, today.

The five government departments are the Royal Malaysia Police, the National Registration Department, the Legal Affairs Division, the Immigration Department and the Islamic Development Department (Jakim).

The project, which would take three years to develop, was launched by the former Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, last February.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Abdullah said the system would be ready for implementation by next September and would link 110 Syariah courts from 102 locations across the nation.

He said the network link between the Syariah Department and the five government departments would enable cases in the Syariah Court to be settled in a faster and more efficient way.

For example, when the e-Syariah is linked to the police, any warrant of arrest or summons issued by the Syariah court could be promptly received

and dealt with by the police through the e-mail system incorporated, he said.

The same goes with a Syariah Court order prohibiting a person against bringing their child out of the country in a pending hadanah (custody) case, he said. The court order would instantly be despatched to the Immigration Department via e-mail.

Meanwhile, Syariah Justice Department Director-General Datuk Sheikh Ghazali Abdul Rahman in his speech said the e-Syariah scope encompasses six modules -- the Syariah Court case management, the library management system, the Syarie lawyer registration and the e-Syariah portal.

It also includes the system linking selected government agencies and the automated office and e-Syariah networks system between the Syariah Justice Department and all district and headquarters-level Syariah Courts.

Sheikh Ghazali said the department would also be expanding the system's network by linking to the Employee Providence Fund (EPF), the Prisons Department, the Public Service Department's (JPA) pension division and the District and Land Offices.

"All the departments mentioned are interrelated with the Syariah Courts daily proceedings, for example, in managing the faraid (asset distribution) cases, the Land Office and EPF comes in," he said.

The same applies with the Prisons Department in which warrants of arrest and remand orders are issued by the court to be dealt with. The JPA's pension division, meanwhile, would process pension cuts ordered by the Syariah Court.

Besides that, he said, the department would also introduce a speech synthesizer system which automatically converts voice into text, so details of court proceedings could be recorded without writing or typing it down.

"We could also conduct trials via video conferences if the defendents are unable to attend or if witnesses live a distance away from the court. This is the globalisation and information technology era and we are adapting to the times," he said.

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