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State Governments to implement E-Syariah

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STATE Governments nationwide are expected to adopt E-Syariah, a case management system that integrates processes related to the management of cases for the Syariah Court, by 2005.

Currently, five States - Perlis, Penang, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Malacca - and Kuala Lumpur have implemented the system under the first phase of the initiative, said Datuk Dr Muhammad Rais Abdul Karim, director-general of the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (Mampu).

He said two of the six applications of E-Syariah have so far been implemented at these locations, and the rest of the applications are scheduled to be fully deployed in 2005.

The E-Syariah initiative, the seventh project under the Electronic Government flagship application of the Multimedia Super Corridor, is costing the Government some RM39 million, he added.

Speaking at the launch of E-Syariah in Putrajaya last week, Muhammad Rais said ultimately 106 Syariah Courts at 102 locations in the country will be using the system.

"At the moment, judges are undergoing training to use the system," he added.

The link between the State Syariah Courts with the Department of Syariah Judiciary Malaysia and related Government agencies is enabled via the e-Government network to facilitate co-ordination and sharing of information.

E-Syariah, according to Muhammad Rais, is designed to improve the level of service, boost productivity and enhance efficiency in the Syariah Courts.

He said the main challenges in implementing E-Syariah are to get all the State Governments' and management's collaboration, training users, and getting the public to benefit from the system.

The launch of E-Syariah was officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.