

**Take initiative, Muhyiddin tells zakat bodies**  
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Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has called on institutions managing zakat (tithe) distribution to be proactive by identifying those eligible to avoid them from seeking help from others.

He said for example, zakat collected in the capital amounted to RM275 million a year and the money could be used to eradicate hardcore and urban poverty.

"The money can benefit needy Muslims, but the management must be proactive. They have to go down to the ground to identify the needy. If we expect the needy to come to us, some of them might be too shy to seek help from us.

"They might eventually get help from others or beg for alms whereas we have the funds that can be used," he told reporters after presenting tithes to the needy from the Setiawangsa Parliamentary NON constituency at the Mu'adz Bin Jabal Mosque in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Muhyiddin (left) said zakat could be distributed not only in the form of cash assistance but also as capital to start a business.

He said Islamic institutions managing tithe distribution needed to act more effectively to counter allegations that certain people were being deprived of the aid which ultimately led them to get help from others as reported recently.

Muhyiddin said the difficulty in getting tithe assistance should not have arisen but it could have happened as the organisations concerned wanted to make sure that the recipients were one of the asnaf (eligible zakat recipients).

Earlier in his speech, he said Islamic institutions involved should work in an orderly manner, including engaging skilled manpower to tackle poverty, and identify and keep records of those eligible to receive assistance.

Muhyiddin, who is also Federal Territories Umno liaison committee chairman, said the Federal Territories Umno division should identify the urban poor who needed help.

"I don't want to see Kuala Lumpur being a great city, but there are still people who live poverty and destitution," he said.

At the event, Muhyiddin presented gifts from the Federal Territories Islamic Department and Lembaga Padi Beras Nasional Berhad to 715 orphans, single mothers, senior citizens, disabled, the poor and chronic patients.

- Bernama