

'WAQF KEY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT'

National master plan will be formed to strengthen waqf management, says Muhyiddin

ADIB POVERA
PUTRAJAYA
adibpovera@nst.com.my

ANATIONAL Waqf Master Plan (Pelan Induk Wakaf Nasional or PIWN) will be formulated to strengthen and ensure better waqf management, apart from boosting the mobilisation of future endowment assets.

In his speech at the launching of this year's National Waqf Month that was conducted virtually yesterday, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the PIWN would also elevate and empower the role of waqf in the nation's economic development.

Once the PIWN had been formulated, Muhyiddin said he hoped the master plan would bring many benefits to the community irrespective of religion, race and ethnicity.

"I also hope that the involvement of all parties, be it the community, government agencies or government-linked companies (GLCs), can be optimised to strengthen the role of waqf towards developing the economy,"



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin speaking at the launch of National Waqf Month, which was conducted virtually, in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

he said.

Muhyiddin said the federal government recognised the authority of the states in the management and development of waqf property.

This, he said, was in line with the provisions enshrined in the Federal Constitution, which stipulated that matters concerning Islamic affairs were under the jurisdiction of the respective states.

Nevertheless, he outlined four main points to ensure waqf remained as one of the important elements that would facilitate the

country's economic development without denying the role and position of the state Islamic religious councils as the sole trustees of waqf properties in the states.

Among the four main points was increasing the country's waqf funds that will subsequently boost endowment assets.

He said this could be achieved by formulating an initiative at the federal level that would encourage civil servants to make waqf contributions, especially periodically through voluntary salary deductions.

development should be included as an important element in the preparation of each Malaysia Plan.

He said GLCs, government-linked investment companies, corporate bodies, Departments of Wakaf, Zakat and Hajj (Jawhar), Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia (YWM) and state Islamic Religious Councils needed to identify areas as well as cooperation opportunities to optimise the utilisation and development of waqf assets.

On his third point, Muhyiddin highlighted the need for Jawhar and YWM to jointly formulate a holistic and comprehensive enculturation plan that could be implemented at the national and state level with the cooperation of state Islamic Religious Councils.

Such a plan, he said, could facilitate activities to embrace the culture and socialisation of waqf towards creating a waqf literate society.

"I hope Jawhar, which is a department at the federal level, will continue to strengthen its ties with state Islamic Religious Councils to ensure a systematic administration of waqf assets, tithes and the management of matters related to Muslim pilgrims who want to perform the hajj."

On his last point, Muhyiddin highlighted the need for YWM to be empowered, either through the injection of funds or increase of talents, to turn the foundation into an example of advanced waqf management at the global stage.

"In this regard, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali has approved a General Circular No 1/2020: Procedures to Implement Cash Waqf Donations Through Voluntary Salary Deductions for Civil Servants serving in the Federal Territories and states.

"Banking and financial institutions can also assist in diversifying waqf platforms. Islamic financial institutions should include waqf as an added value to their financial products and services."

Secondly, he said, waqf asset