

# Move to facilitate civil servants' participation in waqf

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has called for new initiatives to encourage civil servants to contribute to the waqf (endowment) fund.

"One way to do this is to introduce periodic deductions from their salaries," he said yesterday, adding that this was necessary to raise the fund's savings quantum and assets.

He said this is one of four ways outlined in an effort to ensure that waqf becomes an important element in helping the country's economic growth.

Muhyiddin urged secretaries-general of ministries as well as heads of departments and agencies at the federal level to play a role in encouraging their officers and staff to make contributions to waqf.

Islamic financial institutions could also help by making waqf an element that adds value to their products and services, he added.

Muhyiddin, who was speaking at the launching of Ramadan as National Waqf Month, said the development of waqf properties

should also be made an important element in the preparation of each Malaysia Plan on national development.

The event was streamed "live" on his official Facebook page.

He said government-linked companies, government-linked investment companies and corporate bodies together with the Waqf, Zakat and Haj Department, Yayasan Waqaf (YWM) Malaysia and state Islamic religious

councils need to identify areas for cooperation to optimise the utilisation and development of waqf assets.

Muhyiddin said he wanted a plan to create a holistic and comprehensive waqf culture to be formulated at the national and state levels so as to create a waqf literate society.

He added YWM has to be empowered, either through fund injections or increased talent, so that it could set an example of advanced waqf management at the international level.

"I hope through the role of waqf-related institutions in Malaysia, we will be able to offer

expertise and best practice models to other Muslim countries in an effort to restore the glory of waqf."

On the launch of Ramadan as National Waqf Month, Muhyiddin said it was to ensure that the community could give special attention to the greatness of waqf.

The prime minister also touched on the establishment of the Kenanga Waqf Al-Ihsan Fund, a unit trust launched through the collaboration of Kenanga Investors Bhd and YWM, and a second collaboration between YWM and Bank Rakyat.

Muhyiddin said through the cooperation to increase waqf fund savings, Bank Rakyat has given a commitment to contribute a waqf fund of RM1 million as a matching grant.

"For every ringgit contributed by individual donors to the platform provided by Bank Rakyat, the bank will endow the same amount to the Cash Waqf Fund. This is a waqf revolution activated by the synergy of the corporate sector, which could contribute to the development and growth of waqf in Malaysia." - Bernama

Muhyiddin holding up a poster at the event yesterday.  
BERNAMAPIX



## Muslim endowment fund for well-being of all: Cuepacs

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) wants the perception that waqf (endowment) funds are only for Muslims to be corrected.

Its president Adnan Mat said the concept of waqf is for the well-being of humankind as a whole and as such, Cuepacs hopes that Yayasan Wakaf Malaysia, with the involvement of state Islamic religious councils, will implement various initiatives to strengthen the involvement of people, especially

non-Muslims, in developing waqf funds.

"The perception that waqf funds are specifically for Muslims must be done away with in the thinking of the people through approaches which are more non-Muslim friendly.

"In the context of public service, Cuepacs hopes all heads of departments will play an active role to encourage officers and personnel to be involved in waqf contributions through salary deductions.

"Channel information clearly on the role and importance of waqf so that civil servants

will better understand why their salaries are deducted."

He also concurred with Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's proposal that the 1.6 million civil servants be involved in waqf contributions through voluntary periodical salary deductions.

"Imagine if each of the 1.6 million civil servants contributes an average of RM10 a month for waqf contributions, about RM192 million will be collected each year from civil servants alone." - Bernama