

Tuanku Mizan Opens New FT Syariah Court Complex
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin today officially opened the new Federal Territory (FT) Syariah Court complex in Jalan Hartamas, here, which began operations on Oct 24.

Tuanku Mizan, who was accompanied by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Jamil Khir Baharom and director-general of the Syariah Judicial Department Tan Sri Ibrahim Lembang, also spent some time touring the inside of the new building.

Construction of the new court complex, costing RM96 million, began on April 10, 2006 and was completed on May 31, 2011.

Jamil Khir, in his speech, said when the FT Syariah Court was established on Feb 1, 1974, there were only a few officers including the syariah judge but the number had increased to 130 now, including the syariah chief judge, three high court judges and six lower court judges.

It started its operations at Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman in Jalan Ampang before moving to the Public Works Department building in Jalan Tun Abdul Razak. It moved again to the Baitulmal Building in Jalan Ipoh in 1983 followed by the Sulaiman Building in Jalan Damansara in 1990, before moving to its own building in Jalan Hartamas.

Jamil Khir said the Syariah Judicial Department and FT Syariah Court always strived to dispose of divorce cases backlogged for over three years including 28 fasakh cases, confirmation of divorce pronouncements, and divorce and taklik cases.

"From the efforts made, 96.4 per cent of the cases were resolved while one case was unresolved within the set time frame, while 42 per cent of the fasakh cases up to Oct 30 this year were resolved within a month, and nine per cent or 17 cases within six months," he said.

Ibrahim, when met by reporters, said the move to the new complex would enable the number of syariah judges to be increased, and cases outstanding for over three years be resolved faster.

He said the new complex had 11 Lower Court rooms, six High Court rooms and one Appeals Court room to expedite the process.

"If before, we could only conduct the hearing of four cases at any one time, now we can do that for six to 11 cases," he said.

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