

**Malaysia Invited To Head World Food Programme – Muhyiddin
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MUAR, July 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's agricultural capability has received world recognition with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) inviting the country to spearhead a programme to increase food production among Islamic countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said this was voiced by the Chairman of the Fund Manager of IDB Dr Abdullah El-Kuwaiz when they met at the Perdana Putra Building, here Friday.

"Food is a critical matter and its supply is insufficient despite our population increasing by the billions.

"Many Muslim countries are having hunger problems because of food shortage, so they have asked me to head a team to drive efforts on an agriculture project to produce food with IDB's help.

"This shows that they recognise and highly regard Malaysia's capability," he said at a breaking of the fast event at the Panchor Pekan Jamek Mosque, here.

The function was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister's wife, Puan Sri Norainee Abdul Rahman and Bukit Serampang assemblyman Datuk Tahir Taat.

Muhyiddin said fruits of the agriculture programme would not only be enjoyed by Malaysia but other Muslim countries worldwide.

The IDB, made up of 56 countries including Malaysia, is an international financial institution established in Saudi Arabia in 1975. It aims to stimulate economic and social development among member countries and the Muslim community based on Islamic principles.

Muhyiddin said although Malaysia was a small country, other Muslim nations sung praises about its achievements.

Meanwhile, Muhyiddin said the varied backgrounds and lifestyles in the country may create problems if not managed with care.

"Let's not appear united but in reality we are not. Malaysia is a small nation so we need to unite.

"Unity is important, especially among the Malay Muslim community. We don't want to split up into factions to the point of praying with two imams like in certain areas," he added.

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