

**Setting Up Of Islamic Leadership Chair At USIM Timely, Says Muhyiddin  
Bernama  
Oct 15, 2014**

NILAI, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- The setting up of an Islamic leadership chair at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) has been described as significant and timely by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"The setting up of this chair is also in line with our commitment to uplift the position of Islam and Muslims in the eyes of the world.

"The Malaysian government fully supports the establishment of the Islamic leadership chair at USIM as a main source of reference in the study of contemporary Islamic leadership," he said.

Muhyiddin said this at the launching of the Tuan Guru Haji Mohd Yassin Muhammad Islamic Leadership Chair at USIM, in Nilai, Wednesday.

Also present were Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and USIM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Musa Ahmad.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the world had recognised Malaysia as "a model Islamic nation that is modern, democratic, stable and developing rapidly".

"Our success in establishing and running well the various Islamic institutions which manage Islamic religious affairs, education, economy, law and social development has made Malaysian a role model for other Islamic countries," he said.

Muhyiddin said the model Malaysian leadership of a modern, progressive and stable Islamic nation was important to be studied in depth.

"In my view, the Tuan Guru Haji Mohd Yassin Muhammad Islamic Leadership Chair at USIM can be the pioneer for comprehensive academic studies on the characteristics, values and practices of contemporary Islamic leadership in line with the demands of today's modern society.

"I suggest that the academicians at USIM and outside work together in producing significant academic research work through this Islamic leadership chair," he said.

Meanwhile, Musa said that through the Chair, USIM aimed to function as a centre for exploring leadership aspects from the Islamic perspective in order to expand the theory on the subject and Malaysia's experience in building leadership for the future.

"We hope the research work will also be universal in nature with strong basic Islamic

elements so as to serve as a guide for leaders at the global level, hence also making USIM a centre for promoting a new brand of leadership that is unique and stable," he said.

The Tuan Guru Haji Mohd Yassin bin Muhammad Islamic Leadership Chair was established with the cooperation of Yayasan Nurul Yaqeen with an initial fund of RM500,000 for a one-year period.

USIM has appointed former Universiti Sains Malaysia vice-chancellor Tan Sri Dzulkifli Abdul Razak to the Chair.

It is named after Muhyiddin's late father, a progressive and proactive figure who championed the Malay and Islamic development agenda in Malaysia, particularly through education and administration.

At the launching of the Chair, Muhyiddin also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between USIM and Yayasan Nurul Yaqeen.

He also witnessed the handing-over of a mock cheque for RM500,000 by a member of Yayasan Nurul Yaqeen Board of Trustees, Datuk Dr Ismail Ibrahim, to Musa for the initial funding of the Chair.

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