

Malaysia Sharia Index is not a seasonal project, says minister
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The Malaysia Sharia Index (MSI), which is an evaluation system to gauge the government's commitment in achieving the Maqasid Shariah (The goals of Islamic principles), is a continuous project and not seasonal in nature.

Minister at the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom said as an initial measure, after the formation of the MSI Technical Committee, a corporate profile was launched on May 14 to publicly explain about MSI.

"The profile will be distributed to related parties involved in the MSI research," he said.

He was replying to Datuk Mas Emeryati Samsudin's (BN-Masjid Tanah) supplementary question about government efforts in ensuring the continuity of MSI so that it would not merely be a 'white-elephant' project.

Replying to Mas Emeryati's original question on efforts to make MSI comprehensible to the public and become an exemplary country, Jamil Khir said information programmes had been conducted from time to time to feed the society and prevent them from being fed with misinformation.

"MSI also explains the misperception among certain quarters, who conceive all this while that the country's administration is not according to Islamic principles.

"The method is hoped to be an eye-opener for other Islamic states that Malaysia is serious in implementing syariah principles in its administration for the peoples' welfare," he said.

On January 10, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak launched the MSI, a product that complements Islamic governance through a more comprehensive sharia requirement yardstick.

The index, the first of its kind ever developed in the world, evaluated and assessed the government's seriousness in achieving the five aspects of the Sharia Maqasid or sharia requirement namely the protection of the religion, protection of life, protection of the mind, protection of the race and protection of property. – Bernama, May 20, 2015.

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