



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (centre) launching the Syariah Nusantara Law and Judiciary Conference 2020 in Sepang yesterday. With him are Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Balkri (left) and Syariah Judiciary Department director-general Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar. PIC BY LUQMAN HAKIM ZUBIR

## JUDICIARY INSTITUTIONS

# SYARIAH BEST PRACTICES FORUM NEEDED, SAYS PM

'It can help govts, religious authorities in region seek clarification on complex Islamic issues'

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PRIME Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has urged the Syariah Judiciary Department to introduce a forum that could serve as a platform for countries in the region to identify the best practices for syariah judiciary institutions.

Muhyiddin said such a forum would enable discussions on how the concept of *maqasid syariah* (paramount objectives of Islamic

law) could assist governments and religious authorities in seeking clarification on Islamic issues, which could, at times, be complex.

"At the regional level, I hope that the department will take the initiative by conducting a forum that can serve as a platform for information-sharing between Malaysia and other countries in the region, such as Brunei, Singapore and Indonesia, to identify the best syariah judiciary institution practices.

"Through this forum, experts

can deliberate and discuss the functions of *maqasid syariah* in helping governments and religious authorities in the respective countries to seek clarification on issues related to the 'syarak', which on some occasions may appear complex if it was only addressed alone (by a single country).

"At the same time, I am aware that syariah judges have a key duty and responsibility to uphold and enforce Islamic laws," he said at the opening of the Syariah Nusantara Law and Judiciary Conference 2020 here yesterday.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Balkri, his

deputy, Ahmad Marzuk Shaary, Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Mohd Khairul Adib Abd Rahman and Syariah Judiciary Department director-general Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar, who is also chief judge at the department.

The three-day conference, which ends today, is themed "The Application of Maqasid Al-Syariah Towards Embracing the New Norms in the Syariah Legal and Judiciary System".

Earlier, Muhyiddin said the principles of *maqasid syariah* have been applied in the government's measures in its fight against Covid-19.

He said the enforcing of proactive measures, including the implementation of various phases of the Movement Control Order (MCO) to break the chain of virus transmission within the community, was proof of this.

The measures, he said, had helped the government protect people from being infected and this was in line with the protec-

tion of life, which is one of the five principles promoted by *maqasid syariah*.

"With the increase in the number of cases and fatalities, the community certainly understands the importance of the principle of protecting lives.

"As a responsible leader, it is the duty of the government to be concerned over the wellbeing of the rakyat to prevent the spread of this outbreak which could result in deaths if left unchecked.

"On the surface, it is not visible that the principles of *maqasid syariah* had guided the government's fight against Covid-19, but in reality, *maqasid syariah* is the guiding principle that has mobilised government efforts in battling the pandemic."

He said the decision to resume Friday and congregational prayers under strict adherence with the standard operating procedures during the Recovery MCO, was in line with the *hifzu al-din* (protection of religion) principle of *maqasid syariah*.