

Five Malay-Muslim groups to get governance advice

Published on Jun 15, 2014 1:07 AM

By Janice Tai

Five Malay-Muslim organisations will take part in a consultation in August to identify their strengths and weaknesses in governance and leadership practices.

Consultants will look into the leadership and organisational competencies of the groups, namely the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP), Muhammadiyah Association, Pertapis, 4PM and Ain Society.

They will identify performance gaps and come up with a training road map for these organisations.

"The road map will be aligned with national training plans, schemes and initiatives, to ensure that the Malay-Muslim voluntary sector remains relevant and effective in meeting the changing needs of the people we serve," said Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister in-charge of Muslim Affairs.

He was speaking at the inaugural governance seminar for Malay-Muslim groups, held at the Lifelong Learning Institute in Eunos Road yesterday.

The seminar brought together key Malay-Muslim leaders and experts to share best practices on promoting sound governance in the running of voluntary welfare organisations.

The seminar is part of plans to build up these organisations so that they will be better equipped to expand their outreach efforts to the community.

In April, it was announced that these organisations can now tap a capability development fund for areas such as leadership grooming, staff training and attracting Malay-Muslim professionals from various sectors.

Dr Yaacob, who is also Minister for Communications and Information, said it is naive to assume that all practices in charitable organisations are above scrutiny.

"I think because they are charities, there is always the sense that we are all doing good and that people will not cheat on us and therefore the practices are all above board. I think that is a bit naive," he said.

"There must be controls and processes because the funds that you receive are from the community and you should be accountable to the community on how they are being used."

Mr Anuar Yusop, executive director of AMP, said he is happy that there is government support to help groups like his run a tight ship.

"With all the audits and processes, there is a cost to governance so it is good that we are getting professional help."