

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**WAQF REPORTING AND GOVERNANCE
OF JOHOR AND FEDERAL TERRITORY
ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS COUNCILS**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

Faculty of Accountancy

July 2017

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis on was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

Waqf plays a critical role within the Islamic society. Indeed, it is a central feature in Islamic religious practices, socio-economy activities, poverty alleviation programs, charity, health, education as well as ways in curbing social problems. Despite its importance, there is a notable lack of proper *waqf* reporting among the Islamic Religious Councils who are responsible in *waqf* administration and control. As far as the *waqf* councils are concerned, there are serious questions regarding the quality and level of reporting conducted, which, in turn, reflects the ineffectiveness of the councils' governance. Even though it is clear that the councils' situation is dire, there have been few studies carried out to investigate this concern. The thesis therefore addresses this literature gap by providing insights on *waqf* reporting and governance of Islamic Religious Councils. In particular, this study aims to investigate the current practice and the governance practice in Islamic councils. These research issues are examined using a qualitative research methodology involving two Islamic councils in Malaysia. Drawing from the literature, a proposed framework of Eisenhardt (1989) is used to interpret the case evidence. The results show that a lack of transparency is the most serious problem faced by the councils. This problem is derived from several attributes consisting of bureaucracy, policies, conflict of interest and limited support from authority. The results of this study provide additional insights into how *waqf* governance among Islamic Councils in Malaysia can be improved. Thus, this research provides an opportunity for the *waqf* practitioners to gain a better understanding of how governance could be leveraged to enhance the councils' performance in reporting. For academicians, insights from this study will add to the body of knowledge particularly on the integration of the accountability theory and the stakeholder theory to examine whether the council is performing and fulfilling the intention of interested parties, whilst introducing the "triple accountability" in order to meet the demand of reporting to stakeholders.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah SWT – Most Merciful – Most Beneficent

All Praise to be God, the Lord of the worlds, and may His Blessings be upon the best of His creation, Muhammad and His Descendants.

I wish to thank both my parents, Hj. Daud bin Hj. Mohd Noor and Hj. Ashkiah Hj. Abu Mansor; my children, Al-Amirul Mukmin, Siti Nur Mursyidah and Siti Nur Aisyah Munirah and my siblings who endured with me through good and bad times. Gratitude also to my precious brother, Azhar Aziz and dearest sister, Afiza Ismail for accepting me into their family and letting me stay with them during the course. I'm also indebted to my aunty, Hj. Zaharah and her family.

My heartiest gratitude goes to my dedicated supervisors, Professor Dr Rashidah Abd Rahman and Professor Keith Maunders for their guidance throughout this study.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Associate Professor Dr Isahak Kassim, Professor Dr Rosmimah, Associate Professor Dr Asmah Abdul Aziz and Dr Normah Ismail for their dedication, comments and time. Thanks are also due to Professor Dr Suhaimi Zakaria and En. Zam for their time and patience in teaching me ATLAS ti; and Associate Professor Dr. Halim Kadri for introducing the Al-Quran Explorer. My gratitude also goes to Associate Professor Dr Hj. Ahmad Che Yaacob and his wife, Hj. Safiah Hj. Mohamed, who introduced me to *wagf* and sparked my initial interest in the subject. My gratitude also goes to my dear friend, En. Hamidi, the librarian at UiTM Shah Alam who has been a great help to me.

To all of you... May Allah (s. w. t.) reward your effort with blessings in the Hereafter...

The whole thesis is about my effort to find the *Tawhidic* governance; therefore I decided to further divide into eleven chapters. I assume complete responsibility for all views expressed in this thesis. I apologise for any mistake that may have gone noticed. This study has not intended to critic anybody, but just to share some idea as a Muslim (Al-Asr, 1-3)

This study is directed to practitioners in Islamic councils who have to deal with governance policies on a day to day basis. I have attempted to present key principles of governance from an Islamic point of view. I pray to Allah that it serves the purpose for which it was written – that of helping Islamic councils throughout Malaysia. *Amin...*

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