

Examining Efficacy of the Islamic Cooperatives Society as a Shari^cAh Based Economic Outfit: A Case Study of Kwasu Al-Halal Cooperative Society, Malete, Nigeria

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Abstract : Islam enjoins the spirit of cooperation among fellow mankind. This is particularly entrenched in the brotherhood phenomenon advocated by Islam. With cooperation, a group of people with diverse qualities and opportunities can facilitate a breakthrough in what is seemingly difficult, if not impossible. This understanding underscores the initiative of establishing multi-purpose cooperative societies for thrifts and savings among bonafide members, especially in developing nations. The spirit and objectives of the Multi-Purpose Cooperatives Societies gave birth to the founding of several of these organizations as a plausible economic outfit in Nigeria to provide succor to the socio-economic predicaments of members. Pertinently, many Islamic cooperative societies sprang up, carving a niche for themselves as Shari^cah-based economic outfits to accommodate the yearnings of the Muslim populace. KWASU Al-Halal Cooperative Society, Malete, Nigeria, is one such organization that is not only Shari^cah inclined but also institutional-based. This paper, therefore, aims to examine the operations and activities of this society with a view to determining its strength as a Shari^cah-based economic outfit for the survival of its clients in a competitive multi-religious atmosphere. The study is both historical and descriptive; thus, it employed interview, observation, focus group discussion and hermeneutical methods as pertinent research tools. The research findings indicated that adopting the Shari^cah prescriptions, KWASU Al-Halal Cooperative Society, as a representation of the Islamic cooperatives society, fulfilled the essence and goal of its establishment, serving as an outlet for meeting the socio-economic demands of its members regardless of religious inclinations. The paper recommended that stronger efforts should be made on proper record keeping, the conscientiousness of beneficiaries on loan refunds or payments on purchases and education of the loanees and guarantors.

Keywords : efficacy, Islamic cooperatives society, Kwasu al-halal cooperative society, shari^cah

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