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A CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC LEGAL REVIEW OF MUŅĀRABAH CONTRACTS BASED ON THE DSN-MUI FATWA

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Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to review the muḍārabah contract from a contemporary Islamic legal perspective, particularly through the fatwas of the National Sharia Council (DSN-MUI), given its strategic role in Islamic financing practices in Indonesia. This study aims to analyze the development of the muḍārabah concept from a classical fiqh understanding to a more contextual and systematic regulation, as outlined in the DSN-MUI fatwas.

Method - This study uses a qualitative research method with a normative-juridical approach, analyzing classical figh texts, contemporary literature, and DSN-MUI fatwas related to muḍārabah.

Findings - The research findings show that although the basic concept of muḍārabah in Islamic jurisprudence emphasizes the principle of profit-sharing and full responsibility for losses on the part of the owner of the capital, the National Sharia Council (DSN-MUI) has developed it through more systematic regulations, such as recognizing legal entities as parties to the contract, guarantee mechanisms under certain conditions, and adapting muḍārabah to modern financial instruments such as sukuk, convertible bonds, and Islamic insurance.

Research Contribution—This study provides a comprehensive understanding of the transformation of the muḍārabah contract from a classical concept to the context of Indonesian Islamic economic law. The limitation of this research lies in its limited focus on DSN-MUI fatwas without exploring their practical implementation in Islamic financial institutions.

Originality: This study's originality lies in its attempt to critically connect classical fiqh studies with contemporary fatwas, thereby enriching Islamic legal discourse in responding to modern challenges.

Keywords: DSN-MUI Fatwa, Islamic Law, Modern Sharia Contracts, Sharia Financial Institutions, Mudārabah

Abstrak

Tujuan - Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh kebutuhan untuk meninjau kembali akad muḍārabah dalam perspektif hukum Islam kontemporer, khususnya melalui fatwa DSN-MUI, mengingat peranannya yang strategis dalam praktik pembiayaan syariah di Indonesia. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis perkembangan konsep muḍārabah dari pemahaman fiqh klasik menuju regulasi yang lebih kontekstual dan sistematis sebagaimana tertuang dalam fatwa-fatwa DSN-MUI.

Metode- Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif dengan pendekatan normatif-yuridis, yaitu menganalisis teks-teks fiqh klasik, literatur kontemporer, serta fatwa-fatwa DSN-MUI terkait muḍārabah.

Temuan - Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun konsep dasar muḍārabah dalam fiqh menekankan prinsip bagi hasil dan tanggung jawab kerugian sepenuhnya pada shahibul maal, DSN-MUI melakukan pengembangan melalui pengaturan lebih sistematis, seperti pengakuan badan hukum sebagai pihak akad, mekanisme jaminan dalam kondisi tertentu, serta adaptasi muḍārabah dalam instrumen keuangan modern seperti sukuk, obligasi konversi, dan asuransi syariah.

Kontribusi Penelitian - Kontribusi penelitian ini adalah memberikan pemahaman komprehensif mengenai transformasi akad muḍārabah dari konsep klasik ke konteks hukum ekonomi syariah Indonesia. Keterbatasan penelitian ini terletak pada fokus yang masih terbatas pada fatwa DSN-MUI tanpa eksplorasi praktik implementasinya di lembaga keuangan syariah.

Keaslian - Nilai orisinalitas penelitian ini terletak pada upaya menghubungkan kajian fiqh klasik dengan fatwa kontemporer secara kritis, sehingga memperkaya diskursus hukum Islam dalam merespons tantangan modern.

Kata kunci: Fatwa DSN-MUI, Hukum Islam, Kontrak Syariah Modern, Lembaga Keuangan Syariah, Mudārabah.

INTRODUCTION

Islam, as a comprehensive religion, does not only address ritual worship but also provides comprehensive guidelines in matters of mu'amalah, including economic and financial transactions. One prominent form of transaction in the study of Islamic jurisprudence on economic transactions is the mudarabah contract, which is a partnership between the capital provider (sāḥib al-māl) and the business manager (muḍārib) based on the principles of trust and profit-sharing according to the initial agreement. This contract reflects the values of justice, transparency, and responsibility that characterize the Islamic economic system (Abdullah et al., 2024).

Currently, *muḍārabah* contracts are not only used in traditional community practices but have also become an important part of the management of Islamic financial institutions (LKS), such as Islamic banks, Islamic business units, and BPRS. Law No. 21 of 2008 concerning Islamic Banking makes *muḍārabah* contracts one of the bases for

Islamic banking operations in Indonesia. This demonstrates that *muḍārabah* plays a crucial role in pooling and channeling funds according to Islamic principles. The *muḍārabah* agreement is based on several key principles, including mutual trust between the capital provider and the business manager (*amānah*), profit sharing in accordance with mutual agreement (profit sharing), and the capital provider bearing the risk of loss as long as the manager is not negligent. Additionally, this contract emphasizes honesty, fairness and transparency in all business activities (Hakim, 2019).

However, the dynamics of the economy and the complexity of the contemporary financial system present challenges to the implementation of the *muḍārabah* contract. The practice of *muḍārabah* is no longer simple; it is subject to various regulations, risk management, and increasingly complex legal compliance. This is where the role of the National Sharia Council of the Indonesian Ulema Council (DSN-MUI) becomes strategic in ensuring that the

contracts used by LKS remain within the authentic Sharia corridor and are adaptive to developments in the era (Chasanah, 2020).

To address these needs, the DSN-MUI has issued more than 160 fatwas as of August 8, 2025, and around 30 fatwas specifically regulate and develop legal provisions for mudārabah contracts. These fatwas are a separate source of law in Indonesia's Sharia economic legal system and serve as an important reference for Sharia financial industry players. However, a crucial question arises: to what extent can these fatwas address contemporary issues, and to what extent is the muḍārabah contract implemented in accordance with the ideals of classical figh (Pricilia et al., 2025)?

The gap in contemporary Islamic legal studies on mudārabah contracts is increasingly apparent, as most previous studies focus on certain dimensions without linking them in depth with DSN-MUI regulations and modern Islamic banking practices. There are studies that emphasize philosophical aspects by discussing the principle of justice in the distribution of profits and losses, (Aris Munandar, 2023) There are also those who examine the differences in the views of the madzhab scholars regarding muḍārabah guarantees which often cause problems when applied in the financial industry (Abdullah, et al., 2024). Other research is more textual, normatively examining the DSN-MUI fatwa on muḍārabah (Setiya Afandi,

2024). Some studies emphasize practicalempirical aspects by reviewing the application of the principle of justice in Islamic practice of financial institutions (Srisusilawati & Eprianti, 2017). Meanwhile, some studies raise the perspective of Abdullah Saeed's critical thinking highlighting by muḍārabah as a financing product within the framework of modernity, emphasizing flexibility, market needs, and adaptation to the contemporary economic system (Qomar, 2018). In contrast to these approaches, the study contemporary Islamic law mudārabah contracts based on the DSN-MUI fatwa seeks to combine normative analysis with an applicative review, so that it does not only limit itself to theory, but also maps the dynamics, complexity, and inconsistencies between classical concepts and industrial practices, to bridge the gap between figh ideals and the needs of regulation and implementation in the field.

The novelty of this research lies in its critical approach to DSN-MUI regulation of *muḍārabah* within the framework of normative Islamic law. This research will not only analyzes the legal structure and content of the DSN-MUI fatwa and examines its relevance, consistency, and development potential in responding to the demands of Islamic economic development. Thus, this research seeks to fill the void in the literature that has tended to be descriptive and less evaluative.

The urgency of this research is reinforced by the minimal understanding of business actors, customers, and legal apparatus regarding the legal position of mudārabah based on the DSN-MUI Fatwa (Astari et al., 2021). This has resulted in several cases of deviation from the mudārabah contract, which then led to legal conflicts. Therefore, a more complete and comprehensive understanding is needed of the legal position of the DSN-MUI fatwa in the Islamic legal system, as well as how the mudarabah contract can be used as a sharia instrument that is economically useful and has strong legal legitimacy (Fitri, 2025).

Against this background, this study aims to examine the concept and application of the mudarabah contract from an Islamic legal perspective by referring to the DSN-MUI decision, as well as identifying challenges, opportunities, and new formulations that can strengthen the position of muḍārabah in the sharia economic legal system in Indonesia. This study is expected to provide academic contributions practical preparation of regulations that are fair, adaptive, and in accordance with maqāṣid al-sharī 'ah.

Method

This study employs a qualitative approach with a normative legal method, examining the concept of *muḍārabah* contracts in Islamic law through doctrinal and historical analyses

based on the DSN-MUI fatwa (Abdullah, Nurhasanah, et al., 2024). This study aims to trace the normative basis of the DSN-MUI fatwas on muḍārabah and understand their transformation and application in the context of Indonesia's sharia economic legal system. The data used are in the form of primary legal materials, such as DSN-MUI fatwas and related laws and regulations, secondary legal materials in the form of scientific literature, textbooks, academic journals. The analysis is carried out through a juridicalqualitative approach by interpreting the normative content of legal texts and linking them to historical and social contexts, in order to produce a deep understanding of the consistency and relevance of muḍārabah fatwas in the contemporary practice of Islamic financial institutions (Abdullah et al., 2024).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Concept of Muḍārabah in Fiqh

The term *muḍārabah* originates from classical Islamic commercial law and has been known since the early days of Islam as a form of cooperation between capital owners (ṣāḥib al-māl) and business managers (muḍārib) (Lamusu, 2021). In fiqh literature, this contract is also known as qirāḍ and has been an important topic of discussion among scholars of various schools of thought, such as Imam Malik, Imam Shafi'i, and Imam Abu Hanifah. Although the muḍārabah contract has strong roots in

Arab commercial practices, similar forms of cooperation were known in various previous civilizations, including in the Jewish Talmud, indicating that this business partnership model was not entirely new to Islamic law. However, Islam adopted and perfected it in accordance with the principles of Sharia. At that time, the city of Mecca served as hub for international economic activity, where merchants from various conduct regions gathered to transactions. Since there was no rejection or contradiction from authentic Islamic legal sources, scholars subsequently established muḍārabah as a valid contract within the Islamic legal system (Qomar, 2018).

In the linguistic sense, the term $mud\bar{a}rabah$ derives from the phrase darb $f\bar{\imath}$ al-ard, which means to travel for trade (Rambe 2024). According to Wahbah Zuhaili, two terms are commonly used

for this concept: $mu\dot{q}\bar{a}rabah$ and $qir\bar{a}\dot{q}/mu\dot{q}\bar{a}rabah$. In the language of the Iraqi people, it is referred to as $mu\dot{q}\bar{a}rabah$, while in the Hijaz dialect, it is called $qir\bar{a}\dot{q}$, derived from the word $qar\dot{q}$, meaning to cut, as the capital owner allocates a portion of their wealth to the capital manager $(mu\dot{q}\bar{a}rib)$ for management and receives a share of the profits in return (Wahbah Zuhaili, 2011).

According to Sayyid Sabiq, muḍārabah is also known as mu'āmalah, which is a cooperation agreement between two parties, where one party provides capital to the other party for trading, with a profit-sharing system that has been agreed upon. Hakim adds that the terms mudārabah, mu 'āmalah girād, and essentially refer to the same concept, and differences are more than geographical background substantive differences meaning in (Sayyid Sabiq, 2008).

Table 1: Comparative Terminology of Mudarabah in Islamic Jurisprudence

Term	Source	Meaning	Notes	
Muḍārabah	General (Islamic	A contract between a capital	The most	
	Jurisprudence)	provider and a business manager	commonly used	
		with a profit-sharing agreement.	term in Islamic	
			finance.	
Qirāḍ/	Maliki & Hanafi	A synonym for muḍārabah in	Commonly used in	
Muḍārabah	Schools	classical jurisprudence traditions.	Hijaz and Iraq	
			regions.	
mu ʿāmalah	Sayyid Sabiq	A business partnership where one	Appears in some	
		party provides the capital and the	contemporary	
		other manages the trade.	Islamic legal	
			literature.	

The understanding of *muḍārabah* in *fiqh* has varied interpretations from the classical to contemporary eras, both

among the imams of the *madzhab* of thought and their successors. The Hanafiyah *madzhab* interprets *muḍārabah* as a contract for sharing profits, with one party providing capital and the other

managing the business. The Malikiyah madzhab defines mudārabah or qirādh in a Shari'ah context as an agreement to delegate the capital held by the asset owner to the asset manager for business purposes, using specific forms of capital such as money, gold, or silver that can be used for transactions. The asset owner is obliged to hand over the capital to the manager as soon as possible, in accordance with what has been agreed. Syafi'iyah madzhab describes The mudārabah as a contract that involves the transfer of funds from one party to another for business purposes, with both parties entitled to a share of the profits under specific conditions. The Hambali madzhab states that mudārabah is a declaration for the transfer of specific assets from their owner, taken from their own wealth, to another individual who will conduct the business, with profits being shared in a general manner from the gains obtained (Al-Jauzairi, 2017).

Based on the opinions of the four madzhab of figh, there is no significant difference in meaning, particularly in the interpretation of mudarabah among the Hanafi, Shafi'i, and Hambali madzhabs, where all three understand muḍārabah as a form of cooperation in which one party contributes capital and the other contributes through management. This is somewhat distinct from the Maliki school, which interprets mudarabah as a contract delegating capital management (Abdullah, Nuraeni, et al., 2024).

In its development, the interpretation of *muḍārabah* has been understood

differently by contemporary scholars. Fatwa al-Azhar explains that muḍārabah refers to a contract for sharing profits, whereby the capital is provided by one party and the work is performed by another according to certain stipulated conditions. This aligns with the definition of mudārabah in the fatāwā almu 'āṣirah, which states that muḍārabah is a type of partnership that involves a capital contribution (ra's al-māl) from one party and work ('amal) from another party. (Fadillah Mursid, 2023)

Muḍārabah, according to figh scholars, is an agreement whereby the capital owner entrusts their capital to a worker (trader) for trading purposes, while the trading profits are shared according to mutual agreement. In the event of a loss in trade, the capital owner bears the entire loss. This definition indicates that what is entrusted by the worker (trader) is in the form of capital, not benefits such as rental income. This view is consistent with that expressed by Sheikh Wahbah Zuhaili, who states mudārabah is a contract whereby the capital owner entrusts their capital to the worker for management, and the profits belong to both parties in accordance with their agreement. However, losses are solely borne by the capital owner, while the worker incurs no loss except for their effort and labor (Zuhaili, 2011).

According to Ahmad Asy-Syarbasyi, as cited by Syafi'i Antonio, *muḍārabah* is practically a partnership agreement between two parties, where the first party (the investor) provides all the

capital (100%), and the second party acts as the worker. The profits of the business in *muḍārabah* are distributed according to the agreement stipulated in the contract, while losses remain the responsibility of the capital owner, provided that the losses are not due to the negligence of the manager. If the losses arise from fraud or negligence, the manager must be accountable for those losses (Antonio, 2001).

The definition of mudarabah has evolved based on several definitions provided by contemporary figh scholars. Classical scholars have tended to define muḍārabah as a partnership between two individuals with a profit-sharing arrangement. However, as business ventures do not always yield profits, contemporary scholars have refined this definition by expanding interpretation of mudārabah to include the stipulation that the capital owner is solely responsible for any incurred during the partnership.

Legal Foundations, Principles, and Conditions of Mudārabah Islamic jurists agree that the muḍārabah contract is a permissible form of cooperation. Although some jurists cite Quranic verse 20 of Surah Muzzammil as supporting evidence, the does not explicitly muḍārabah but rather provides a general reference to economic activities such as "walking on the earth seeking Allah's bounty." Therefore, if this verse is used as the basis for ijtihād, it must be clarified that its permissibility is based

on the implicit meaning (mafḥūm) of the verse, not the explicit text (naṣṣ) (Abduroman, 2021). To strengthen the argument, the historical record of muḍārabah practices carried out by Prophet Muhammad Saw with Khadijah before his prophethood can serve as more concrete historical evidence, while also demonstrating the social and religious legitimacy of such contracts in the economic practices of Arab society during the early days of Islam (Mursid, F. (2020).

Following the validation of these agreed-upon legal sources, which are adhered to by the majority of Islamic jurists (the Qur'an, Sunnah, Ijma', and Qiyas), scholars of figh have differing opinions concerning the principles and conditions of muḍārabah (Abdullah et al., 2021). According to Hanafi scholars, the principles of mudārabah consist of an offer (ijāb) and acceptance (qabūl) articulated in terms that convey the meaning of both. Scholars from the Shafi'i school identify five principles: (1) capital, (2) labor, (3) profit, (4) contract form (sighat), and (5) the parties involved. However, the majority of scholars assert that the principles of mudarabah comprise three elements: (1) the parties to the contract (the capital provider and the worker), (2) the subject matter of the contract (capital, work, and profit), and (3) the contract form in the offer and acceptance (Chasanah, 2020).

Based on the principles of *muḍārabah* according to the majority, the conditions that must be fulfilled are:

a. Conditions pertaining to the parties entering into the contract (the capital provider and manager of capital). Both the provider and manager must meet legal qualifications, which means they must possess sound reasoning. b. Conditions related to the contract form (ijāb and qabūl). The contract form of mudārabah is an agreement of offer and acceptance, which can be expressed verbally, in writing, or through any communication means acceptable to both parties. However, it is advisable for all mudārabah contracts to be documented in writing with appropriate witnesses prevent to disputes or misunderstandings.

c. Conditions concerning the subject matter (capital, profit, and work). Regarding capital, most scholars believe that it must be in the form of cash. Thus, it is invalid if the muḍārabah capital consists of assets in the form of receivables. Moreover, the capital must be fully entrusted to the entrepreneur, and its amount and type must be clearly defined by contract. Concerning distribution of profits, it must be based on the agreed-upon method of profit sharing, rather than as a lump sum or percentage of the capital. Conditions related to the mudārib's perspective and the mudārabah contract can be categorized into two types. First, Muḍārabah Al-Muthlagah (Unrestricted Mudārabah Contract) is contract wherein the fund provider permits the muḍārib to utilize the muḍārabah funds without restrictions on the type of work to be undertaken, the location, time,

method, and other payment management aspects. Second, Muḍārabah Al-Muqayyadah (Restricted Mudārabah Contract) is a contract wherein the investor limits the activities of the mudarib to a specific location or type investment or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the capital provider, but not in a manner that overly constrains the muḍārib in their activities (Srisusilawati and Eprianti, 2017).

The End of *Muḍārabah*, the termination of the *muḍārabah* contract, is declared upon the occurrence of the following events:

- a. The parties agree to terminate the contract.
- b. One of the contracting parties passes away.
- c. One of the contracting parties becomes mentally incapacitated, as a person who is insane is no longer competent to undertake legal action.

The capital has been exhausted in the hands of the capital provider before being utilized by the worker. Similarly, if the capital provider utilizes the capital such that there is nothing left for the capital provider to control, then there is nothing left for the worker to manage, thus invalidating the *muḍārabah* (Mazuin, 2020).

In addition to the four aforementioned points, according to Sayyid Sabiq, the termination of the *muḍārabah* contract may also occur due to the failure to fulfil the valid conditions of *muḍārabah* and the *muḍārib* not conducting their business activities

in accordance with the agreement in the contract (Munandar, 2023).

The Concept of Muḍārabah Contracts in the Fatwa of DSN-MUI

The National Sharia Council of the Indonesian Ulema Council (DSN-MUI), since its establishment in 1999, has issued 160 fatwas since its establishment in 2000 until early 2025. Among them, more than 30 fatwas are related to muḍārabah (Pricilia et al., 2025). Of the fatwas related to muḍārabah, only eight specifically use the term muḍārabah with more detailed legal provisions and discuss it comprehensively (Hamdan et al., 2024). The legal provisions of these eight fatwas can be summarized as follows:

Fatwa DSN-MUI No. 07/DSN-MUI/IV/2000 concerning *Muḍārabah* Financing (*qirāḍh*)

This fatwa does not provide a written definition of mudarabah as a contract, however. However, it explains what mudārabah financing involves. it describes mudārabah Essentially, financing as a collaborative effort in a productive business with a specified which duration, the financial institution acts as the capital provider (sāḥib al-māl) financing 100% of the needs of a project (business) with a clearly stated amount of cash, while the entrepreneur (customer) acts as the muḍārib or business manager, managing the agreed-upon business form in accordance with this Sharia. In partnership, should losses occur, they

will be borne entirely by the financial institution unless the *muḍārib* commits intentional misconduct, negligence, or breaches the agreement (Rambe, 2024). *Muḍārabah* financing in this fatwa is established with several principles and conditions.

- a. The parties involved. The condition is that they must be legally competent to do so.
- b. The contract (*ijāb* and *qabūl*). The clarity of the contract's purpose must be considered, the agreement must be made at the time of the contract, and it should be in writing or in a recognized manner (Handi & Abdullah, 2024).
- c. Capital. It must be known in terms of amount and type, and the capital must be in the form of cash or valuable goods at the time of the contract and cannot be in the form of receivables.
- d. Profit. The condition is that profits must be shared between both parties, and their proportions must be known from the outset of the contract. Losses are the responsibility of the capital provider, except for losses resulting from negligence, errors, or breaches agreement by the mudārib (Anggraeni, 2024).
- e. Business activities by the muḍārib. The condition is that the capital provider must not interfere or restrict the muḍārib in management, and the *muḍārib* must not violate Sharia in managing the capital.
- f. In addition to the five principles and their conditions, several other matters are addressed in this fatwa, including those concerning

compensation and guarantees. Guarantees are provided to ensure that the muḍārib does not engage in deviations and as a precautionary measure for the muḍārib in the case of intentional losses. Thus, if losses occur due to mistakes, negligence, or breaches of the agreement, the capital provider can request compensation (Kamaruddin, 2022).

1. Fatwa DSN-MUI No. 33/DSN-MUI/IX/2002 concerning *Muḍārabah Sukuk*

This fatwa on *muḍārabah* Sukuk discusses muḍārabah solely as a contract within the framework of Sukuk, while the provisions of muḍārabah itself continue to refer to the provisions of Fatwa DSN-MUI No. 07/DSN-MUI/IV/2000 concerning *Muḍārabah* Financing (*qirāḍh*).

 Fatwa DSN-MUI No. 38/DSN-MUI/X/2002 concerning Muḍārabah Investment Certificates Between Banks (IMA Certificates)

> This fatwa on Mudārabah Investment Certificates Between Banks (IMA Certificates) merely touches upon mudarabah as a contract permitted under Sharia, while contracts based on interest are prohibited, but does not delve further into the mechanisms and provisions for executing the contract.

3. Fatwa DSN-MUI No. 50/DSN-MUI/III/2006 concerning the Muḍārabah Musytarakah Contract

The Mudārabah mushārakah Contract represents a combination the Mudārabah and In mushārakah contracts. this both parties (the agreement, provider of capital and the *muḍārib*) contribute capital. Consequently, in the event of losses, they will be borne in proportion to the capital invested by each party.

4. Fatwa 51/DSN-MUI/III/2006 on Muḍārabah Mushārakah Contract in Islamic Insurance

This fatwa discusses the provisions regarding the use of the mudārabah mushārakah contract in stipulating insurance, that policyholder acts as the investor (ṣāḥib al-māl), while the insurance company serves as the manager (muḍārib) and contributes own capital (mushtarak). its Subsequently, the company will manage the total funds. The returns are distributed according to the proportion of capital and effort, and in the event of losses, the insurance company bears the losses accordance with the proportion of capital.

5. Fatwa DSN-MUI No.59/DSN-MUI/V/2007 on Convertible Mudārabah Bonds

Convertible Muḍārabah Bonds are Islamic bonds issued by the issuer based on the muḍārabah principle to augment working capital needs, with an option for investors to convert the bonds into

the issuer's shares at maturity. Therefore, the contract used is the mudārabah contract, taking into account the substance of Mudārabah Financing, Fatwa DSN-MUI Number 32/DSN-MUI/IX/2002 on Islamic Bonds, and Fatwa DSN-MUI Number 33/DSN-MUI/IX/2002 on Muḍārabah Islamic Bonds. The issuer in Convertible Mudārabah Bonds acts as the *mudārib*, while the holders of the Convertible Mudārabah Bonds act as sāhib almāl. In cases where the holders of the convertible bonds exercise their right to convert the bonds into shares of the issuer, the contract used is the mushārakah contract, holders of the whereby the Convertible Mudārabah **Bonds** (CMBs) act as shareholders.

6. Fatwa DSN-MUI No.105/DSN-MUI/X/2016 on Guaranteeing the Return of Capital in Muḍārabah, Mushārakah, and wakālah bi alistithmār Financing

This fatwa essentially guarantees the full return of the capital of the $s\bar{a}hib$ al-māl in the event of losses. The fatwa elaborates on the concept of the $mud\bar{a}rabah$ contract as a form of partnership between two parties, where the first party (malik, $s\bar{a}hib$ al-māl, LKS) provides all the capital, while the second party ('amil, mudārib, customer) acts as the manager. The profits from the venture are shared between them according to the ratio agreed upon

in the contract, while losses are borne by the *ṣāḥib al-māl* alone.

The return of capital in this muḍārabah must be executed if losses occur due to taʿaddī, tafrīṭ, or mukhālafat al-shurūṭ and can be proven in court. Prior to any binding decision, losses remain the responsibility of the manager.

7. Fatwa DSN-MUI No. 115/DSN-MUI/IX/2017 on the *Muḍārabah* Contract

This fatwa provides a conceptual framework for the *muḍārabah* contract as a partnership between the capital owner (ṣāḥib al-māl l), who supplies all the capital, and the manager (*muḍārib*), with profits from the venture shared according to the ratio agreed upon in the contract. The *muḍārabah* outlined in this fatwa may take the following forms:

- a. Mudārabah- muqayyadah.
- b. Muḍārabah- muṭlaqah.
- c. Mudārabah- thanā'iyyah.
- d. Muḍārabah-mushtarakah (Setiya Afandi, 2024).

The *muḍārabah* contract in this fatwa is established under several stipulations and conditions.

1 Contract (*ijāb* and *qabūl*). It must be stated clearly and unequivocally and be comprehensible to both parties, which may be done verbally, in writing, or through gestures. Specifically, for *muḍārabah thanā ʾiyyah*, re-*muḍārabah* is not permitted unless authorised by the

- owner of the capital (Nuraini et al., 2025).
- 2 The parties involved (ṣāḥib al-māl and muḍārib) may be individuals or entities, whether legal or otherwise, provided that they are legally competent in accordance with applicable laws. The shahibul maal must possess muḍārabah capital, and the muḍārib must have the necessary skills and competencies.
- 3 Capital. It must be transferable and can be in the form of cash, goods, or a combination of both. If in the form of goods, their value must be converted, and if different currencies are involved, conversion is also required; it cannot be in the form of receivables.
- 4 Profit-sharing ratio. The profit ratio must be agreed upon and known from the outset of the contract, expressed in a ratio rather than a nominal amount or percentage of capital. Losses are the responsibility of the capital provider, except in cases of negligence, error, or breach of the agreement by the *muḍārib*.
- Business activities. The business must be halal (in accordance with Sharia and legal regulations). The muḍārib must conduct muḍārabah activities in the name of the muḍārabah entity, not in their own name. Expenses arising from business activities in the name of the muḍārabah entity may be charged to it. The muḍārib must not borrow, lend, donate, or gift capital and

- profits to others except with the permission of the $s\bar{a}hib$ $al-m\bar{a}l$. The muḍārib must not engage in actions that constitute $ta'add\bar{\imath}$, $tafr\bar{\imath}t$, or $mukh\bar{a}lafat$ $al-shur\bar{u}t$ (exceed
- Distribution of profits and losses. Profits must be calculated clearly, and the total results must be shared according to the agreed ratio. The muḍārib may propose additional profits or a percentage of profits to be allocated to them if the profits exceed a certain amount. Losses from the muḍārabah venture are the responsibility of the sāḥib al-māl unless those losses arise due to actions by the *muḍārib* that involve ta'addī, tagshir, and/or breaches of the terms, or if the *mudārib* violates the limits set in the muḍārabah muqayyadah contracts.
- 7 Provisions on the Activities and Products of Financial Institutions.
- 8 If the *mudārabah* contract is executed in the form of financing, of fatwa provisions DSN-MUI 07/DSN-MUI/IV/2000 on Mudārabah Financing (Qiradh) apply. If the mudārabah contract is realized in the form of mudārabah musytarakah, the provisions stated in fatwa DSN-MUI Number 50/DSN-MUI/VIII/2006 on Muḍārabah Musytarakah apply. If the muḍārabah contract is realized in the form of mudārabah musytarakah in Islamic insurance activities, provisions as stated in fatwa DSN-MUI Number 51/DSN-MUI/III/2006

on *Muḍārabah Musytarakah* in Islamic Insurance apply (Anggraeni, 2024). The following is a brief table of the discussion regarding the DSN-MUI fatwas relating to the *Muḍārabah* contract:

Table 2: Summary and Legal Dimensions of DSN-MUI Fatwas on Muḍārabah Contracts

N	Fatwa	Type of	Related	Main Legal	Classical Figh	Key
o	Number	Muḍārabah	Parties	Aspects	Notes /	Information
		-		•	Differences	Summary
1	07/DSN-	Muḍārabah	Ṣāḥib al-Māl	Capital from	Aligned with	Explains basic
	MUI/IV/200	Financing	and	one party	majority	principles of
	0	(Qiradh)	Muḍārib	(ṣāḥib al-māl);	opinion in	muḍārabah
				profit shared;	classical <i>fiqh</i> ;	including
				loss borne by	rooted in	profit-sharing
				capital owner	Maliki and	and risk
				if no	Hanafi	allocation
				negligence	traditions	
2	50 &	Muḍārabah	Both parties	Both parties	Considered	Capital-sharing
	51/DSN-	Musytarakah	as capital	contribute	extension of	model that
	MUI/III/200		contributors	capital; profit	muḍārabah	blends <i>syirkah</i>
	6			and risk	concept;	and muḍārabah
				shared	debated in	
				proportionally	classical fiqh as	
					hybrid with	
					syirkah	
3	59/DSN-	Convertible	Issuers	Capital	Not found in	Links to
	MUI/V/2007	Muḍārabah	(Muḍārib)	invested by	classical texts;	previous fatwas
		Bonds	and	public via	modern	(07 and 33);
			Bondholder	bonds;	adaptation of	emphasizes
			s	potential	muḍārabah to	conversion
				conversion to	Islamic capital	rights to shares
				equity	markets	
4	105/DSN-	Capital	Shahibul	Capital must	Classical fiqh	Clarifies when
	MUI/X/2016	Return	Maal and	be returned in	prohibits	the capital
		Guarantee	Muḍārib	case of	capital	return is
				negligence or	guarantee	allowed due to
				contract	unless due to	breach of
				violation	misconduct	contract or
						mismanagemen
5	115/DSN-	General	Individuals	Comprehensiv	Systematizatio	t Standardizes all
	MUI/IX/201	Guidelines:	or legal	e structure	n of figh forms	muḍārabah types
	7	Muqayyadah	entities	including	into practical	in DSN fatwas
	'	, Muthlaqah,	ennues	types,	guidelines;	with clear terms
		, wumuqun, Musytarakah		conditions,	includes	and distinctions
		างานอนานานหนาเ		and parties	multiple	and distillctions
				involved	classical views	
				nivoivea	ciassical views	

The table shows that the DSN-MUI fatwas on mudārabah contracts have significantly developed from classical concepts to more modern and complex applications in the Islamic financial system. Starting from the principles of muḍārabah as known in classical figh, these fatwas have evolved to include new forms, such as muḍārabah musytarakah, convertible sukuk, and capital return guarantees. Each fatwa emphasizes key legal aspects such as capital distribution, responsibility, and risk, and accommodates contemporary practical needs without compromising Islamic principles.

The Development of Muḍārabah Contracts in Figh into DSN-MUI Fatwas

Based an examination approximately 30 DSN-MUI fatwas that reference the use of muḍārabah contracts, only eight fatwas specifically include mudārabah in their titles. Among these Eight fatwas, only three provide an indepth discussion of muḍārabah contracts (Safa et al., 2024). In the context of mudārabah financing, there significant difference between classical figh understanding and the provisions the DSN-MUI fatwa. stipulated in Classical figh bases the mudārabah contract on the principle of a simple partnership, with the main pillars being the sāḥib al-māl (capital owner), muḍārib (manager), māl (capital), and sighat (ijab gabul). This emphasizes that the muḍārib does not bear losses except as a result of negligence or deviation (Adriana et al., 2023). However, DSN-MUI fatwas, such as Fatwa No. 07/2000, No. 115/2017, and No. 105/2016 provide a more systematic and contextual elaboration of this contract, including the allowance of a guarantor under certain conditions, the recognition of legal entities as parties to the contract, and adjustments to the contract structure to align with modern economic practices and the Indonesian legal system (Fallah, S2025). Thus, the DSN-MUI not only reinterprets classical concepts in a normative manner but also accommodates the needs of Islamic financial institutions to conduct safe and adaptive financing without the fundamental compromising principles of Sharia (Mursid, 2023).

Among these three fatwas related to muḍārabah, only fatwas (1) and (2) provide a detailed explanation of muḍārabah contracts. Fatwa number (3) merely addresses the guarantee of capital return in the event of losses caused by ta'addi, tafrith, or mukhalafat al-syuruth, which must be proven in court. Apart from these three fatwas, the remainder merely mentions muḍārabah as an option for contracts that may be used in transactions concerning the provisions, referring to the initial fatwa on mudārabah.

Although the fatwas of the DSN-MUI do not explicitly state that the pillars of the muḍārabah contract refer to the Shafi' i school of thought, they substantively and structurally reflect the classification of the five pillars of the

contract as explained by Imam Shafi'i. This can be seen from the content of fatwas related to mudarabah, such as Fatwa No. 07/DSN-MUI/IV/2000 on Muḍārabah Financing, which includes provisions regarding capital (ra'sul maal), labor ('amal), profit sharing (ribh), the contract terms (ijab-qabul, which is the expression of intent to enter into the contract), and the clarity of the parties involved in the contract (sāhib al-māl and mudārib). pillars Two that undergone significant development are: (1) Capital, which in the DSN-MUI fatwa is expanded to include not only cash but also assets that can be valued and used productively, and (2) Labor, which in implementation modern includes professional roles and specific expertise explicitly stated in the contract. Thus, it can be concluded that, although not explicitly referenced in theoretical terms or explicitly attributed to Imam Shafi'i, the DSN-MUI has normatively adopted these figh principles in the structure of its fatwas, and its adaptations reflect contextual ijtihad in response to the needs of contemporary Islamic economic practices (Lamusu, 2021).

An important development in the practice of *muḍārabah* contracts has occurred in determining the parties to the contract. In classical *fiqh*, the only parties legally competent to enter into a muḍārabah contract are individuals with legal capacity (Mahmudah, 2020). However, with the passage of time and the needs of the modern business world, DSN-MUI Fatwa No. 115 of 2017

broadened the meaning of legal subjects in contracts. Explicitly stated in Article 2 of the General Provisions, the fatwa states: "The parties are individuals or entities, whether legally incorporated or not." This provision marks a significant change, as the parties to the contract are no longer limited to individuals but may also include legal entities such cooperatives, limited liability companies, or foundations, thereby opening opportunities modern institutions to legally participate in mudarabah contracts in accordance with Sharia principles.

Second, there is a development regarding responsibilities and accountability of the muḍārib. The concept of mudarabah has always been understood as a form of agreement to share profits, with capital provided by one party and work (effort) provided by the other. Traditionally, losses were considered the sole responsibility of the capital provider. The muḍārib is not liable for any losses except those related their efforts and work. This conception is also reflected in the DSN-MUI fatwas concerning muḍārabah, stating that losses are entirely the responsibility of the capital provider, except for intentional losses (due to ta'addi or failing to perform required actions (tagshir), negligence, or breaches of the muḍārabah agreement (Arifudin & Karmawan, 2025).

The development of the *muḍārib's* accountability lies in the obligation to return capital in *muḍārabah* if losses arise

due to ta'addi, tafrith, or mukhalafat alsyuruth, which must be proven in court. Prior to the establishment of binding decisions, losses were the responsibility of managers. The development of mudarabah contracts in contemporary Islamic financial institutions shows a paradigm shift from the classical figh approach to a more pragmatic and risk management-based approach. classical figh, trust in muḍārib is based entirely on moral integrity trustworthiness in fund management. However, in modern practice, financial maintain security minimize moral hazard risks, financial institutions require material guarantees the muḍārib. This from approach, although not fully aligned with the classical muḍārabah principle that rejects any liability for losses on the part of the mudārib except in cases of negligence or breach, is still considered relevant in terms of the public interest. This demonstrates the adaptation of Islamic economic law to the needs of the modern banking system, which demands greater accountability and risk Therefore, mitigation. it be concluded imposing that material guarantees on the mudārib is a form of contemporary ijtihad that balances Islamic principles with the demands of financial system stability.

CONCLUSION

Developments in *muḍārabah* regulations show a significant shift from classical *fiqh* principles toward an

approach that is more responsive to modern economic challenges and realities. One of the most notable examples is the provision in Fatwa DSN MUI No. 115 of 2017 on Muḍārabah Contracts, which expands the legal subjects in the contract from individuals to legal entities or groups of people, whether incorporated or not. This reflects the adaptation of Sharia law to a complex organized more and economic contemporary structure. Furthermore, the application of material guarantees in mudārabah imposed on the muḍārib also indicates a shift in orientation from an individual moral-ethical approach toward systemic financial security. In classical figh, material guarantees were not recognized in *muḍārabah* because capital security was entirely dependent on the honesty and integrity of the mudārib. However, in modern practice, the potential for moral hazard and the increasing need for legal certainty have prompted Islamic financial institutions to request guarantees for risk mitigation. Thus, regulations such as Fatwa No. 115 not only provide legal legitimacy for the involvement of legal entities in Sharia contracts but also accommodate the need for greater financial stability and security. This adaptation strengthens the position of Sharia financial institutions in building a secure and competitive financing system without substantially departing from the basic principles of Sharia.

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