

ISKUL SAMA DILAUT OMADAL

*To build young leaders among the stateless and local community
through holistic education*



Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal || December 2019

2019: Demanding

While 2018 ended on a seemingly positive note, 2019 has been a demanding year for Iskul.



Dear <<NAME>>,

Everyone has the right to education as guaranteed by Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Moreover, education at elementary and fundamental stages shall be free and compulsory.

However, that is not the case for the stateless children in Omadal Island, Semporna, Sabah. These children have no nationality despite being born in Malaysia and hence denied the right to attend formal schools.

The “Undocumented Children Can Enter Schools 2019” initiative announced by the Ministry of Education Malaysia is not inclusive and does not benefit the stateless children born and residing in Omadal Island because most of the parents in the Bajau Laut community are undocumented, some for more than two (2) generations.

Who are the stateless community in Semporna?



Since September 2018, the Mentor-Mentee Programme was put on hold until we are able to identify ways to improve it.

[Read here to understand why.](#)

By November 2018, we have a Coordinator duo, Aida and Sikin based in Omdal Island and Semporna. The dynamic duo conducted the [Year-End Examination followed by Hari Sukaneka and Iskul's second Majlis Anugerah Cemerlang.](#)



However, as the year 2018 concluded, Iskul was unwillingly tangled in the local political conflict and it resulted in us losing our Field Coordinator, Aida. The political tension and workload that lays on Sikin overwhelmed her and she resigned a month later. In the same month, the Iskul core management team was down to only two (2) members - Ee Chia and Hui Ling. In view of the lack of manpower, Iskul had paused operation from mid-February to May 2019.



During the period of inactivity, officers from the Jabatan Pendidikan Daerah Semporna who was visiting SK Omdal found out about Iskul and had made a sudden visit to the Pondok Iskul in the presence of our Headmistress, Kak Roziah.

During the visit, a couple of our students passed by Pondok Iskul and was invited for a chat with the visiting officers. They were given a basic literacy test and impressed the officers. The officers also complimented the effort from Iskul for the community and expressed interest for potential collaboration in future education-related activities.

By May 2019, Khairul - one of our previous Mastal Arikik (Little Teacher), returned from visiting his brother in Johor Bahru and we proposed for him to take up the currently vacant position of Field Coordinator. He agreed to give it a try and took the initiative to resume classes. Khairul managed

to gather a batch of approximately 15 new students and recruited two (2) advanced students from our pioneer batch to return to teach as Mastal Arikik.

The classes for new intake only sustained with poor attendance for slightly over a month and Iskul took another month-long break for Hari Raya Aidilfitri. After the festive, Khairul resume the classes and attendance from students slowly improved since.

In September 2019, Iskul managed to arrange a quick 10-day field visit in conjunction with the Malaysia Day celebration. The trip also prioritised visits to homes of our students and group interviews to assess the progress of our students from pioneer intake as well as the current intake.



After the field visit concluded, Iskul continued with weekend classes throughout October and in November, Iskul welcomes Izwan returning to teach after he completed his Form Three Assessment (PT3). Additionally, Iskul also receives Hui Ling who will be managing Iskul on a full-time basis.

Wrapping up the year 2019, Iskul has a full-time management member, a Field Coordinator and four (4) Mastal Arikik comprises of two (2) returning Mastal Arikik (Sakinas and Izwan) and two (2) advanced class students from our pioneer intake (Delah and Enidah)!

We are especially proud of Delah and Enidah because they were courageous in taking up the responsibility to share their knowledge with other children from their community. They inspired us and showed us that the community has potential if Iskul is able to continue to provide the space and creates opportunities for them!



As our efforts continue in 2020, we thank you for being part of our journey and we look forward to having you by our side—knowing that our work is not possible without you.

Whether it is to revive our Mentor-Mentee Programme, organise a convocation ceremony for our

advanced students from the pioneer batch, resource mapping the village of the stateless community, or celebrate another Malaysia Day to continue instilling the sense of #IBelong for the community, next year will see new challenges and new opportunities for us to do it together.

And <<NAME>>, with people like you by our side, we know progress is possible. We can't do it without you.

Iskul signing off the year with gratitude and greets the next with renewed motivation. We hope you will continue to be part of this journey and support us - to fund the **Hope of Literacy for these stateless children**. With either RM500 or RM250 yearly (or RM42 or RM21 monthly), you will help sustain the operation of Iskul and help us to enable more activities to empower the stateless community.



To support Iskul **#2020fundraising**, you may transfer / issue cheque payable to:

Account Name: **Persatuan Pendidikan Bajau Laut (Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal)**
 Bank Name: **Public Bank**
 Account Number: **3-2165146-31**

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

When you consider Christmas gift this festive season, we hope you will gift a stateless child a Hope for Literacy. Every ringgit will make a difference for these stateless children and for **Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal**.

It would be equally wonderful if you could help us by downloading the flyers below and share them with your friends and family because **kindness is infectious!**

Fund Hope of Literacy - English

Fund Hope of Literacy - Bahasa Malaysia

Fund Hope of Literacy - Chinese

Last but not least, **Merry Christmas** from all of us to all of you, and have a safe and happy holiday.

Thank you!



One Night to Christmas!

Gift a **Hope of Literacy** this December!

GIFT NOW



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