

ISKUL SAMA DILAUT OMADAL

*To build young leaders among the local community
(Malaysian citizen and stateless) through holistic education*



Iskul E-News Issue 6 || May 2020

Dear <<NAME>>,

How Are You Coping this #MCO?

We are on Day 46 of the Movement Control Order (MCO) which has been implemented by the Malaysian government since 18 March 2020.

On Day 14, Iskul raised funds and collated support to provide relief to the Omadal stateless community in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic last month. Unexpectedly, we received enough funds to support 150 stateless families within three days! Even though we faced logistic and supply challenges, we managed to distribute food ration to all families within two weeks! We are thankful that our distribution on the ground is a collaborative effort from the communities - our students, Field Coordinator-in-training, and led by Iskul full-time teacher, Cikgu Jefry.

In this issue, we want to share with you the highlights of the relief effort, acknowledge the overwhelming generosity we received and also to introduce to you the members of the team. With that, we also hope that you will continue to contribute to our much-needed operation fund to support the current ground team for the next year.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue!

COVID-19 Relief Fundraising & Relief Distribution to 150 Stateless Families in Omadal Island

31 March - 13 April 2020



The Covid-19 pandemic that affects us globally has brought fear, uncertainty but also empathy and kindness. The latter two have enabled Iskul to feed 150 stateless families for a few weeks, understand their demographic and socio-economic better as well as identify youths we can groom as leaders.

Unlike many of us who have a fridge full of fresh food while #StayingHome, the stateless community in Omadal Island struggles for food. With restricted movement, they could not sell their sea catches as the wet market is closed. Hence, no income to buy food and clean water.



One week into the **Movement Control Order (MCO)**, Cikgu Jefry hosted a few students, who had not eaten for a day, with a simple meal of biscuits and hot drinks. This vulnerable community lives from hand to mouth and this event reflects the dire situation the community faces.

When the MCO was extended, Iskul quickly contacted relevant authorities to verify if aids are available for the stateless community. To our disappointment, there was none. We immediately crowdfunded to purchase food relief from the town and transport it to the island for distribution. We secured an appointment with the **Semporna District Officer, Tn Benedict Asmat** and after two day's wait for approval, we delivered our first batch of supply.



Prior to the distribution, **Cikgu Jefry** made home visits to conduct due diligence and arrange the order of collection. He was guided by one of our pioneer students, **Bilkuin**, who is a member of the stateless community. The home visits are crucial to help us identify the more needy households.

Cikgu Jefry Musa has just joined Iskul at the end of February as our full-time teacher. With one-year teaching experience in Sekolah Alternatif Semporna, he is to customise syllabus for Iskul's stateless children as well as to guide our Field Coordinator in-training (FC) and Mastal Arikik (MA). Most importantly, his role is to help to build the capacity of our students, FC and MA to be leaders of their own communities.

When each family collects their ration in Pondok Iskul, our FC in-training, **Khairul** helped to register their details because he speaks the Bajau language. These registrations allowed us to collect a basic census of the stateless population in Omadal Island - number of family members per household, income range and available facilities. This has lent us a glimpse of their scarcity.

Khairul is a resident of Omadal Island. He is one of Iskul's co-founder and a pioneer MA. He graduated from his secondary education in 2018 and while waiting for an opportunity to further his studies, he has courageously stepped up to the vacant position.



Help us support Khairul:

FIELD COORDINATOR IN TRAINING

ALLOWANCE: **RM 600/MONTH**

Donate Now →

During the distribution, **Bilkuin** was assigned to call the families according to the results from Cikgu Jefry's home visit. Meanwhile, **Enidah and Delah** assisted by arranging and packing the supply for each recipient. They also helped to carry the supplies when needed.

Enidah, Delah and Bilkuin are among the 50 students enrolled in Iskul since August 2015. Enidah and Delah have returned to help Iskul and we have recruited them as our MA starting July 2019, while, Bilkuin has proactively returned to take simple lessons from Cikgu Jefry almost every night since March this year.

Witnessing their participation and active contribution throughout these two weeks, we are certain of the potential they represented in the youths of the stateless community. We are aware that they have the responsibility to also work elsewhere to help sustain the livelihood of their family. Hence, we wish to recruit them full-time so they could invest their time to learn in Iskul without distractions.



Help us establish an:

EMPOWERMENT FUND

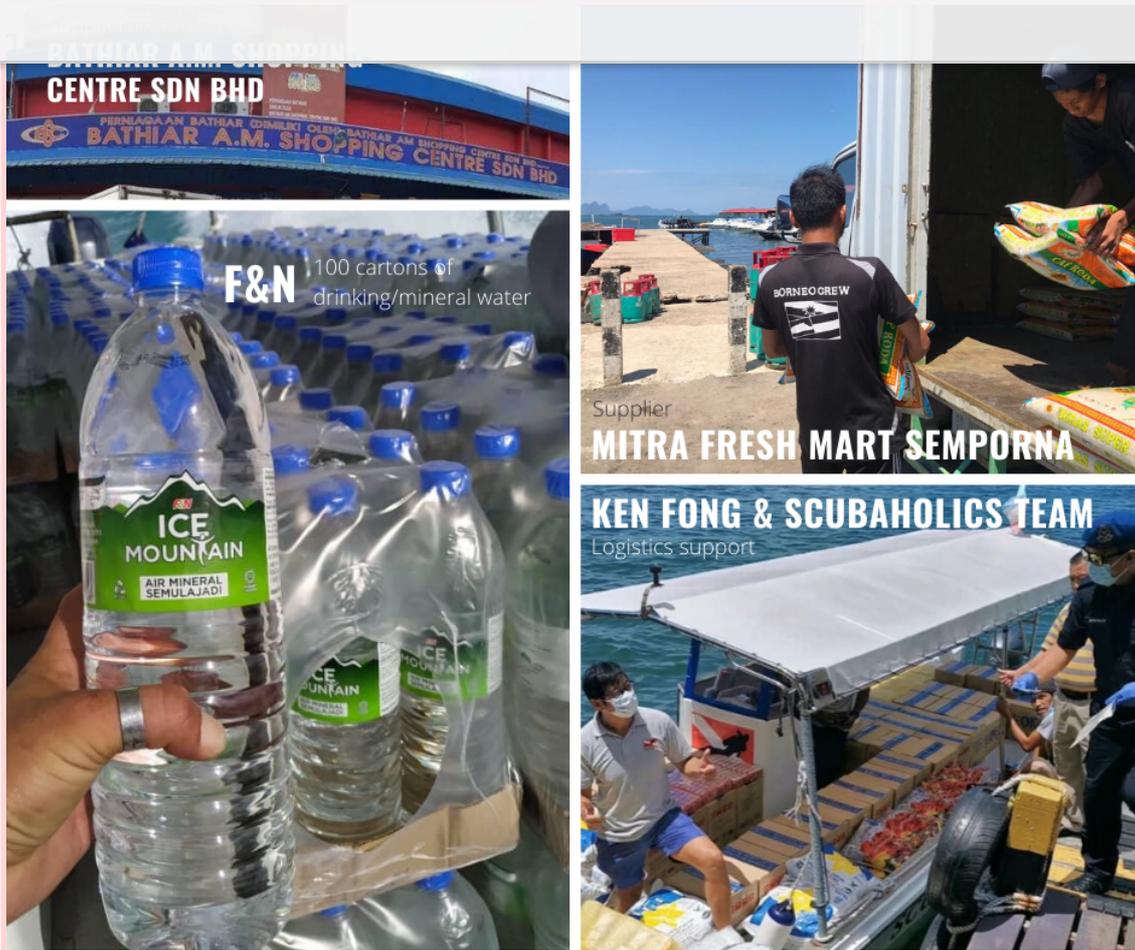
FOR YOUTHS FROM THE
STATELESS COMMUNITY

RM 300/PAX/MONTH

Donate Now →

Aside from our team, we were fortunate to find a reliable supplier, **Mitra Fresh Mart Semporna** to consistently meet our orders in large batches with free delivery to the jetty. When they could not supply drinking/mineral water, we managed to purchase the first batch of 65 cartons from **Bathiar A.M. Shopping Centre Sdn Bhd**. Subsequently, our request has received attention from **F&N Malaysia** who has generously sponsored 100 cartons of 12 x 1.5L bottles of Ice Mountain Mineral Water.

The good intentions behind MCO posed challenges to the logistics arrangement to transport the supplies from the town to the island. Thankfully, we have **Ken Fong and the team from Scubaholics** who has warmly offered their boat and manpower. Due to space and weight limitation of the boat, we have to distribute the food supplies in five trips.



In a nutshell, **the power of unity and kindness in people** is truly the fuel behind the successful relief distribution to the 150 stateless families. We raised the total fund needed within three (3) days as well as rallied logistics support and an unexpected sponsorship for drinking water. We are overwhelmed by the gratitude for the trust the public has placed in Iskul to deliver the relief to the stateless community of Omadal Island and in helping us in making it a success.

Thank you, <<NAME>>!

Iskul in the News

We are thankful to **Malaysiakini** for publishing our request to partner with relevant authorities to bring relief to the stateless community during this MCO and for reporting the commencing of our distribution fairly quickly.



Persebaran Pendidikan Sajaou Laut

LETTER 373 SHARES

Letter: Iskul hopes to help bring aid to stateless community in Sabah island

malaysiakini

150 stateless families in isolated island to receive food aid during MCO

receive food aid during MCO

Hidir Reduan Abdul Rashid
Published 2 Apr 2020, 4:42 pm · Modified 3 Apr 2020, 6:17 am

CORONAVIRUS | Cut off from the mainland of Sabah since the Movement Control Order (MCO) was implemented on March 18, 150 stateless families on Omadal Island are set to receive much-needed food aid beginning today.

The crucial ration comes at a critical time for the families, comprised of the Sama-Bajau community, as their ability to earn a living by selling their fishing catch at local mainland markets in Semporna was disrupted by the restriction imposed by MCO to curb the further spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The food aid to the marginalised families would be channelled by non-governmental organisation Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal (Persatuan

What's Next After Relief Distribution?

After distributing to 150 families, we decided to use 20% of the balance fund to top-up supply for the 24 families of our students on a weekly basis as their supply had depleted after two weeks. Moving forward, the team watches for any announcement of MCO extension beyond 12 May as we may re-evaluate the need to provide the second round of food and drinks distribution to the 150 stateless families.

While food is essential for the vulnerable community in order to overcome Covid-19 but it is not the only necessity lacking to fortify the protection against future crisis. The team also identified the following projects and programmes that are crucial for immediate implementation after MCO is lifted completely and classes may resume.

MOVING FORWARD:

<p>➤ Upcycling Project: 1.5L Water Bottles</p> <p>➤ Clean Water Project</p>	<p>➤ Basic Personal Hygiene Programme</p> <p>➤ Medical Awareness & Free Health Examination</p>
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We hope that by sharing it here, perhaps <<NAME>>, you could direct us to the person who could help us fulfil any one of the plans!

Yes! I know someone who can help!

Have you checked out Iskul's latest outputs?

ISKUL HOPES TO PARTNER WITH RELEVANT AUTHORITIES TO EXPEDITE RELIEF FOR THE STATELESS COMMUNITY IN OMADAL



Individuals living off the coast of the Omadal Island, Semporna, Sabah. Averagely, seven people live in a cramped space with limited clean water and without electricity.

When the Movement Control Order (MCO) was implemented and wet markets in Semporna town closed, this community whose main income is generated from fishing and sales of their daily catch, lost their one and only revenue. This community lives from hand to mouth and after seven (7) days of ceasing seafaring activities, they have exhausted their food supply and savings.

Hence, Iskul welcomes the timely announcement by the Sabah State Government to provide the much-needed food ration to islanders off Semporna and Kota Kinabalu, irrespective of nationalities (The Star Online, 26 March 2020). We hope to partner with the relevant authorities to help distribute the food. Our community learning centre, Pondok Iskul (pic) is located between the stateless occupants off the coast and the Malaysian residents on the island. It can be used as the distribution centre for the stateless population. Iskul has a resident teacher and field coordinator in Omadal Island who is able to identify the community members and helped ensure everyone in the community has come forward to receive the relief. If necessary and permitted, they may also be mobilised to purchase or collect the food rations from town accordingly.



Pondok Iskul

We all did a little more and it helped.



An initiative by Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal to provide 2-week food supply and drinking water for 150 stateless families in Omadal Island, Semporna, Sabah, Malaysia during Movement Control Order (MCO) implemented by the Malaysian government.

Iskul's Press Statement (March 2020)

Brief Report for the Covid-19 Relief Distribution

[View & Download](#)

Last but not least, the current global health crisis is unprecedented but it is also temporary. While Iskul's classes on the ground are put on hold, we are still looking out for the well-being of our students and their family, as well as their community.

Being the only registered neutral entity on the island, Iskul understands the important role it plays and is readily on standby to serve as the go-to stop for the stateless community. We will continue to keep you updated on the situation on the ground.

Until then...

Stay home. Be safe. And look to the future.

#InThisTogether

Help us sustain our operation by funding:

HOPE OF LITERACY

#2020fundraising



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