

ISKUL SAMA DILAUT OMADAL

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



Iskul E-News | Addressing the recent concerns on Iskul's establishment

Dear <<First Name>> ,

Greetings from Iskul!

Happy New Year! As we step into a brand new year filled with hope and possibilities, we extend warm greetings to you and your loved ones.

In light of recent events, it is with a heavy heart that we share disconcerting news about Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal. Regrettably, a Facebook post has emerged, casting doubt on Iskul's legitimacy and expressing reservations about its existence on Pulau Omadal. The post outlines various concerns, particularly questioning whether Iskul has obtained approval from Omadal's residents or community representatives to operate the school. It alleges that Iskul's presence unfairly impacts Omadal residents, suggesting a link to the rise of social problems within the community. In response, Iskul, in partnership with the CSO Platform for Reform (Sabah Chapter), has issued a joint press statement urgently calling on the government to safeguard and endorse a secure educational environment for marginalized stateless children at Pulau Omadal. This statement also endeavors to dispel perilous misconceptions surrounding Iskul's establishment and has garnered endorsements from 38 local residents, 72 CSOs, and 20 individuals.

To address the concerns raised, let's delve into key aspects of Iskul's establishment and mission:

- **Permission and Support:** Iskul, contrary to some claims, is not established without permission; it has garnered support from the authorities and obtained permission to operate from the then JKPP of Omadal, Haji Jimlan and the then District Officer of Semporna, Dr Chaco Hj Bulah. The 2017 letter of support was further copied to relevant authorities such as the Education Department, Unit Pemimpin Pembangunan Masyarakat, police, marine police and state assembly-persons.
- **Community Participation:** Iskul was co-founded with the participation of the local community, specifically the children and women, in 2015. It is important to note that Iskul's mission extends beyond providing education to stateless children of the Bajau Laut community; it is committed to advocating education for all children, including the children of Pulau Omadal. The school is founded with a community participatory approach,

children from the community in Omadal who laid the first foundations of Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal. Iskul later engaged Cikgu Jefry and other teachers at the request of its young teacher and co-founder, a resident of Omadal, to join the school to teach and guide them. Iskul's establishment of a community health centre is also centred around making healthcare accessible to all without discrimination, offering free health check-ups to both local residents and the Bajau Laut community.

- **Holistic Approach:** Our holistic approach at Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal goes beyond traditional education, aiming to instil strong moral values in our students. It organises diverse programmes such as aktiviti sukaneka, pesta kebudayaan, content creation, first aid services, medical checkup, and gotong-royong that also involves the local residents of Pulau Omadal where positive impact on the community and the environment has been commended. By actively engaging them in community-based programs and fostering a sense of responsibility, we aspire to empower these young minds to become active and contributing residents of Pulau Omadal. This approach is all about cultivating a sense of duty and citizenship, contributing to a decrease in potential social problems, as our mission aligns with the post's claims and concerns. We believe that a well-rounded education encompasses both academic excellence and the development of qualities that will make our students valuable members of their community.
- **Historical Context:** Furthermore, the historical context of Semporna and the Sulu Sea must be recognised where the Bajau Laut community has existed for a long time, living as sea nomads. The Sulu sea and its surrounding islands have been their home tracing back to almost a thousand years, historically only coming ashore for trading purposes or to shelter from storms.

We extend our deepest gratitude for the steadfast support Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal has received from diverse Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and individuals. This collective endorsement reflects a shared commitment to our mission and the well-being of the communities we serve. Please have a read by checking out some of the press statements and articles from us and our partners that are addressing this issue:

- Iskul's joint press statement released by the [CSO Platform Steering Committee](#)
- Support statement from [Malaysia Society for Harm Reduction \(MSHR\)](#)
- [Ministry of Education's](#) response to Iskul's press statement
- Press statement released by [CSO for reforms to the media](#)
- [SUHAKAM's](#) press statement in support of Iskul's establishment

For a detailed list of endorsements, please refer to the end of this message.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our staff and students is paramount to us at Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal. We deeply value their right to education and are committed to creating a secure and nurturing environment for everyone. Our

and growth. As we navigate these challenging times, your continued support is vital. Your trust in Iskul's mission ensures a safe and nurturing educational space for marginalised children on Pulau Omadal.

Thank you for standing with us and contributing to a brighter future for these young minds.



Endorsed by:

Penduduk Kampung Omadal Hujung

1. Jimlan @ Nining bin Sabtuhari
2. Abdul Hari bin Sabtuhari
3. Sitti Jaijam binti Sabtuhari
4. Bunga Layang @ Mariam binti Haji Jimlan
5. Norani binti Jimlan
6. Daiyan binti Robin
7. Roziah binti Jalalid
8. Nawiran binti Sabtuhari
9. Siti Jariah binti Arab
10. Norma binti Sawijan
11. Rabiah binti Babul
12. Mansula bin Babul
13. Norbiah binti Tangkih
14. Gollo binti Mansula
15. Siti Nur Marini binti Makbul
16. Nasip bin Abdul Hari
17. Ahmad Sarif bin Abdul Salat
18. Shaiman bin MD Atim
19. Muhammad Sukri bin Roben
20. Norbiah binti Tangki
21. Siti Sakinaz binti Abdullah
22. Fauziah binti Arab
23. Sitti Rasun binti Arab
24. Mohd Fazlan bin Tularan
25. Rusiah binti Sawijan

- 28. Sitti Ammih binti Babul
- 29. Muhammad Khairul bin Md Atim
- 30. Asroy bin Tarawi
- 31. Nurharijah binti Jalalun
- 32. Norlida binti Sawijan
- 33. Masmera binti Jimlan
- 34. Safri bin Abdul Hari.
- 35. Zulkarnain bin Saidan
- 36. Kabaran binti Arab
- 37. Tanya binti Tularan
- 38. Romzi bin Ebrahim

Civil Society Organisations/Collectives

- 1. Sabah AIDS Support Services Association - KASIH
- 2. Cahaya Society
- 3. Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam - KUASA
- 4. Borneo Komrad
- 5. Sekolah Alternatif
- 6. Komuniti Filem Titiwangsa - KOMFIT
- 7. Buku Jalanan Chowkit
- 8. Advocates for Non-discrimination and Access to Knowledge - ANAK
- 9. Engineers Without Borders Malaysia - EWB Malaysia
- 10. Kuliah Buku - KUBU
- 11. Etania Schools Sabah
- 12. Pangrok Sulap
- 13. Dream to Fly Production
- 14. Yayasan Chow Kit
- 15. Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia
- 16. Persatuan Komuniti Prihatin Prihatin Selangor, KL & Perak - PRIHATIN
- 17. Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas Malaysia - DHRRA Malaysia
- 18. Balai Bikin
- 19. KerbauWorks
- 20. Siring-Siring
- 21. Kota-K Art Gallery
- 22. Sabah Human Rights Centre
- 23. Ruang Tamu Ekosistem
- 24. Tentang Ukir
- 25. RogueArt
- 26. Gerakan Belia Se-Punjabi Malaysia - GBSM
- 27. Malaysia Society for Harm Reduction
- 28. Pertubuhan Solidaritas
- 29. KLSCAH Youth
- 30. Suara Rakyat Malaysia - SUARAM

- 33. Rumah Reka
- 34. Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia - JOAS
- 35. Light Up Borneo
- 36. Teoh Beng Hock Association for Democratic Advancement
- 37. Impactive Malaysia
- 38. Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs - IDEAS
- 39. North South Initiative
- 40. Sekolah Islamiyah
- 41. Buku Jalanan Ipoh
- 42. Undi Sabah
- 43. Tiada Guru
- 44. Malaysian Care
- 45. Jaringan Kampung Orang Asli Semenanjung Malaysia - JKOASM
- 46. Global Shepherds Berhad
- 47. Liga Rakyat Demokratik
- 48. Enlight Malaysia
- 49. Gerakan Mahasiswa Maju UPM
- 50. Johor Yellow Flame - JYF
- 51. Foreign Spouses Support Group - FSSG
- 52. Lawyer Kamek
- 53. Persatuan Pemangkin Daya Masyarakat
- 54. University of Malaya Association of New Youth - UMANY.
- 55. Persatuan Bertutur Bahasa Mandarin Malaysia Negeri Johor
- 56. 北大前进阵线 Student Progressive Front UUM
- 57. 北大学声阵线 Suara Siswa UUM
- 58. 拉曼學生聯盟 Rahman Student League - RSL
- 59. Siti Kasim & Associates
- 60. MAJU
- 61. Citizens Against Enforced Disappearances - CAGED
- 62. Justice for Sisters
- 63. Centre for Independent Journalism
- 64. Persatuan Pemangkin Daya Masyarakat
- 65. NARATIF Malaysia
- 66. Jentayu -Malaysia Muda
- 67. Persatuan Lembaga-Lembaga Pengurus Sekolah Cina Perak
- 68. Dignity For Children Foundation
- 69. MYReaders
- 70. Kelab Belia Tinagayan (KEBAT)
- 71. Alphat SE
- 72. Institute Statelessness and Inclusion

Individuals

- 1. Dr Simon Soon (Academic, Universiti Malaya)
- 2. Putri Purnama Sugua - Filmmaker (Dream to Fly Production)

5. Yee I-Lan (Artist)
6. Tan Cher Kian (Filmmaker)
7. Dr Ho Sook Wah (Educator)
8. Dr Shridev Nair (Medical Doctor)
9. Tan Jiun Wu (Digital Marketer)
10. PC Foo (Art director)
11. Yuwana Podin (Academic)
12. Mohammad Alshatri (Filmmaker)
13. Ili Nadiyah Dzulfakar (Feminist and Climate Activist)
14. Dr Rodziana M Razali (Academic)
15. Zikri Rahman (Pekerja Budaya)
16. Kuek Ser Kuang Keng (Data Journalist)
17. Megan Steven (NGI)
18. Padma Zachariah (Teacher)
19. Robyn Choi (Advocate & Solicitor)
20. Charis Ding (Educator)
21. Ooi Chee Way (Merchant)
22. Khairuddin Bin Othman (Alphat SE)
23. Vivien How (Alphat SE)



We look forward to writing to you soon with more updates; thank you for being with us on this journey!

We thank you for your time and support. Magsukul!

The grants that support our operation and activities end by December this year. If our work resonates with you, please consider making a contribution to keep us going.

To build young leaders in Omadal, you can transfer to:

Bank: Public Bank

Account Number: 3-2165146-31

Account Name: Persatuan Pendidikan Bajau Laut
(Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal)

Donation Subject: For 2024

Please email a transfer receipt to info@iskul.my to let us know! Every bit of help makes all the difference to us!

With gratitude,
Iskul Team

Follow our social media for more real-time updates!



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