

ISKUL SAMA DILAUT OMADAL
Kampung Omadal Hujung, Pulau Omadal,
91307, Semporna, Sabah, Malaysia

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



There are an estimated 900-1,000 stateless 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

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We truly understand the Defence Minister's intention to centralise distribution ([Malay Mail, 28 March 2020](#)) and restrict movement under the MCO in the effort to flatten the Covid-19 curve. In view of the urgency, Iskul only hopes to expedite and facilitate the distribution of the allocated ration to the affected communities in the shortest time possible and is willing to abide by the SOPs for the personnel on the ground.

Food is essential for the vulnerable community in order to overcome Covid-19 but not the only necessity lacking. The community also lacks clean water to wash hands and for basic hygiene. Thus, it is imperative to (i) provide a supply of clean water for drinking and washing purposes, and (ii) educate them with knowledge of basic personal hygiene.

Therefore, Iskul hopes to assume the leading role to gather support in addressing the issues. We welcome anyone who wished to come onboard in either of the two initiatives for the stateless community. Please feel free to email us at iskul.samadilaut.omadal@gmail.com for further discussion.



This crisis is hard for everyone, and for those of us that can, it's about doing a little more to help.

You may support Iskul's proactive effort by contributing cash for additional food supply, clean water supply as well as a basic personal hygiene campaign for the stateless in Omadal as we fortify the local community's protection against Covid-19.

Last but not least, thank you for your kindness and stay safe. #KitaJagaKita

Contributions for food and clean water supply can be made to:

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

Account number: 3-2165146-31

Bank Name: Public Bank Bhd

SWIFT Code: PBBEMYKL

Please include note <Covid-19> in your transfer receipt and email to iskul.samadilaut.omadal@gmail.com for bank record purposes.

Sincerely,

Persatuan Pendidikan Bajau Laut (Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal)

PPM-009-14-24072017

PERSATUAN PENDIDIKAN BAJAU LAUT (ISKUL SAMA DILAUT OMADAL) | PPM-009-14-24072017

Alamat Berdaftar: C-23A-10, The Scott Garden, Jalan Klang Lama, 56000 W.P. Kuala Lumpur

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About Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal

Iskul is a community-run project initiated to provide basic literacy for stateless children at Omadal Island, Sabah, Malaysia since August 2015. Iskul is registered with Malaysia's Registrar of Societies (ROS) under the official name of *Persatuan Pendidikan Bajau Laut* (PPM-009-14-24072017). **Iskul hopes** to see an increasing number of stateless children able to read and write their names and eventually able to converse in Bahasa Malaysia. We aim to build young leaders among the stateless and local communities through holistic education. Iskul wishes to create more activities for these children that would instil good values and build characters. Ultimately, Iskul aims to grow with the community through the introduction of projects that will improve their livelihood. With a stronger community, we hope to create a bigger voice to seek recognition for the community residing under the project.

For more information, please visit our website at www.iskul.my or our Facebook page: [Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal](https://www.facebook.com/iskul.samadilaut.omadal).