# SITUS SAMA DI-LAUT OMADAL

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# BACKGROUND OF ISKUL SAMA DI-LAUT OMADAL

Content by Ee Chia and Hui Ling Design and Layout by Hui Ling Photographs by Adzmin and Ee Chia

Iskul Sama Dilaut Omadal (hereafter known as Iskul) or Sekolah Bajau Laut Omadal is a community based, childrenled school for the stateless children of the Sama DiLaut (Bajau Laut) community. The little teachers, aged 12 to 15, and known as Mastal Arikik teach the students basic Bahasa Malaysia, simple arithmetic and art classes.

The children of the Bajau Laut community face the following (not limited to) four problems: (1) no proper documents hence unable to attend school; (2) stuck in an inter-generational cycle of poverty and frequently engaged in begging; (3) social stigma and (4) gluesniffing habit to overcome their worries.

Iskul uses community participatory methodology to engage the Mastal Arikik in its formation. Most decisions related to Iskul are made collectively with the Mastal Arikik, the Board of Trustees, headmistress and, hopefully the students too in the near future. For sustainability, each Mastal Arikik is given an allowance as an incentive.

In addition to providing basic literacy to the Bajau Laut children, Iskul also encourages our Mastal Arikik to make decisions. while learning to teach and care for and also learn from their less fortunate friends.

#### ISKUL'S VISION

To create an integrated and inclusive community by nurturing a healthy two-way teaching-learning relationship between the Malaysian and stateless community living within the vicinity of Omadal Island.

#### **HOW A FUNDING SHOULD BE CHANNELED AND HOW IT WILL GET TO ISKUL**



Individuals that want to support Iskul

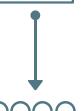


Donate money via Interbank Online Transfer.

Please indicate "Donation -ISDL Omadal" in your transfer



Email transaction receipts/details with Subject "Donation to Iskul" to:



iskul.samadilaut.omadal @gmail.com





The Trustees meet monthly to:

- Check Account
- Update Expenses
- Withdraw Funds needed for next month
- Sign-off by at least three (3) Trustees

The money will be used for Mastal Arikik's monthly allowance, Iskul's students' food ration, stationaries and other Iskul related activities such as Sports Day and gotong-royong. The estimated minimum budget for Iskul's monthly operation is RM500.

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of Iskul (hereafter known as The Trustees) is responsible for the oversight of Iskul Sama Dilaut Omadal or Sekolah Bajau Laut Omadal.

Typical duties of The Trustees include but are not limited to:

- monitoring the syllabus development for and management of Iskul's students;
- ensuring conducive environment for learning in Iskul;
- selecting, appointing, supporting and reviewing the performance of the Mastal Arikik;
- deliberating on decisions regarding development of Iskul;
- ensuring the availability of adequate financial resources;
- approving monthly and annual budgets;
- managing engagement with external stakeholders; and
- governing the organisation by supporting the establishment of rules and regulations in consensus with Headmistress and Mastal Arikik.

The Trustees currently has four members and meets once every month. Board meetings allow for communication among the trustees, the headmistress and the Mastal Arikik (Little Teachers) of Iskul.

The Trustees considers the well-being and learning progress of the children, its utmost priority. We also strive to ensure that all Mastal Arikik devote their time to their own school work and teach weekend lessons only.

The Trustees stand not to recognise any funding channeled for the logistic support – but only collect funds for Mastal Arikik's allowance, students' meal or purchase and/or delivering of teaching materials and Iskul's stationery needs.

Therefore, The Trustees has established a transparent funding channel that will provide clear instructions and knowledge as to how finance is being managed in Iskul.

The chart on the left summarised how one's donation should be channelled to, and how it will reach Iskul in Omadal Island.

## MEDIA GUIDELINES

Thank you for having interest in Iskul.





#### FEATURE STORIES OF ISKUL

Should you be interested in conducting feature stories for Iskul that include interviews (for news columns, documentaries, news clips), shootings/filming (for documentaries, short videos), photography (for exhibitions, research/study), and any form of intended visit to Iskul.

Kindly email your request to iskul.samadilaut.omadal@gmail.com with the following details for our reference:

- 1. Name/Organisation
  - a. Website/Link to Individual/Organisation
  - b. Contact information (email/phone)
- 2. Intention/Objective of the Feature Stories
  - a. Objectives
  - b. Type of Cover Stories
  - c. Where Will it be Published
  - d. Date of Intended Publication
- 3. Information about the visit
  - a. Date of Intended Visit
  - b. Number of Visitors
  - c. Number of Stays (Day/Night)
- 4. Please attach a proposed itinerary for our reference.

We would greatly appreciate at least a month's notice in advance of the intended visit. The Trustees will bring this intention for discussion with Iskul and deliberate on the decision.



#### PERMISSION TO USE ANY PART/CLIP OF THE SHORT VIDEOS

Should you be interested in using any part of the short videos regarding Iskul, we would also encourage you to send your request to iskul.samadilaut.omadal@gmail.com with the following details for our reference:

- 1. Name/Organisation
- 2. Website/Link to Individual/Organisation
- 3. Intention/Objective of the Clip
- 4. Where Will the Clip be Used and Title
- 5. Date of Intended Publication
- 6. Please attach a link or idea/concept paper of the intended use of the clip for our reference.

We would greatly appreciate two weeks' notice in advance to reply. The Trustees will bring this intention for discussion with Iskul and deliberate on the decision.



## VOLUNTEER TUTORS



#### TUTOR TO MASTAL ARIRIK

Should you be interested in providing teaching skills and, knowledge, and to inspire our Mastal Arikik, we would encourage you to send your request to iskul.samadilaut.omadal@gmail.com with the following details for our reference:

- 1. Individual details
  - a. Background (Education, Working Experience)
  - b. Contact Information (email/phone)
  - c. Where did you hear about Iskul?
- 2. What is your proposed learning experience for our Mastal Arikik?
- 3. How long do you plan to spend time with our Mastal Arikik?
  - a. Date of Intended Visit
  - b. Number of Visitors
  - c. Number of Stays (Day/Night)
- 4. Please attach the following for our reference:
  - a. CV or resume
  - b. Proposed learning experience/schedule/plans/itinerary for our Mastal Arikik

We would greatly appreciate at least a month's notice in advance of the intended visit. The Trustees will bring this intention for discussion with Iskul and deliberate on the decision.



Generally, we will acknowledge requests within 7 working days. Your patience and understanding is most appreciated as the Trustees works on a voluntary basis. Under short notice, we may still consider your intention but do understand that shall we be unable to get in touch and confer with Iskul in Omadal Island, we will generally reject your intention.

Thank you so much for your support.

You have something else in mind? Go "Like" our Facebook page and drop us a message!







## **HEADMISTRESS & MASTAL ARIKIK**



Kak Roziah is the Headmistress of Iskul and a resident of Kampung Omadal Hujung in Omadal Island. She is also the President of Persatuan Wanita Pulau Omadal (WAPO) and the mother of one of our Mastal Arikik, Faslan. Kak Roziah also helps to prepare meals for the students. She is passionate about elevating the livelihoods of the women in Omadal.



**Muhammad Khairul bin** Atim | 15 years old "I want to be a teacher and wish to see my Bajau Laut friends being able to read and write."



Mohd Faslan bin Tularan | 12 years old "I want the public to know that Bajau Laut children deserves education too."



Sakinas | 12 years old "I want to learn with my (Bajau Laut) friends."

Syakila (11 years old), Nor Misah (11 years old), Mohd Izwan (12 years old) and Akhmad Pauji (13 years old) resigned as Mastal Arikik in October 2016 to focus on their studies. Iskul thanked them for their service and wish them the best in their studies.

> Note: Photographs with names published especially of children have been given consent by parents and/or legal guardians.



## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Ee Chia** is from Taiping, Perak. Intrigued by the sea-faring Bajau Laut community, she began to explore their marginalised status within the state and local economy in Semporna through her master's thesis. While on her fieldwork in Pulau Omadal, she co-founded Iskul with the local community. She's grateful to be there at the right time where she can use her experience in Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia and Occupy Dataran to facilitate the formation of Iskul. Iskul's students has taught her that everyone has a potential if they are treated with respect and dignity, hence, she hopes to create more spaces within which this is possible.



**Hui Ling** is an environment enthusiast and a creative explorer from Kuala Lumpur. She believes in inspiring a chain of positive actions that leads to powerful impact in the global society. She envisions a world of equal opportunities regardless of gender and citizenship, and especially a world where human and nature lives in harmony.



Adzmin is from Semporna, Sabah and is currently the Co-Founder and Deputy President of local youth group known as Green Semporna. He actively volunteers his time for the conservation efforts of GREEN's in Semporna. He is also an alumni of Young Southeast Asean Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) and passionate about the environment and growing the local youth capacity.



**Shafiyyah** is a native Bajau from Semporna with a degree in Surveying Science and Geomatic majoring in GIS. She upholds a principle of approach towards Bajau Laut through love and care as she strongly believes that this less privileged community will have a bright future awaits them only if we give them the equal chances and opportunities.



## **BECAUSE OF YOU, ISKUL EXISTS**

Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal has celebrated its first anniversary last August. Needless to say, Iskul is still an infant at its current growth. Nonetheless, Iskul has a great ambition to move Iskul forward and upwards in its vision to create an integrated and inclusive community by nurturing a healthy two-way teaching-learning relationship between the Malaysian and stateless community living within the vicinity of Omadal Island.

Iskul works independently and are supported by Malaysian citizens, and will continue to look forward to local support for future development. We hope that your support will only continue to multiply and inspire more Malaysians to take notice of these children living in our country but are not granted access to education. Hereby we would like to reach out to you and offer you an opportunity to support a local initiative for a social-humanitarian cause.

## WE HIGHLY VALUE CONTRIBUTIONS



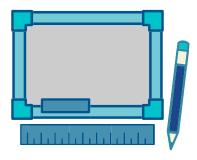
#### **Monetary**

You can support Mastal Arikik's monthly allowances, logistics to and fro town, food allowances for student's meal, and other related activities.



#### Skills/Expertise

You can share your knowledge and skills by training our Mastal Arikik to teach better and/or to bring exposure to improvise our students' livelihood-making skills.



#### **Stationeries**

You can bring joy by purchasing needed stationery and teaching materials such as pencils, pens, erasers, rulers, exercise books, marker pens, and colour pencils.



#### Time

You can spend your time on weekends to help the Board of Trustees by observing teachinglearning approach, capture photos and monitor progress during classes held on weekend, especially if you are based in Semporna!

## **ISKUL STILL NEEDS YOU**

Thanks to your generous investment and passionate support, 21 children were able to learn to read and write. As we grow, we hope that you will consider supporting crucial aspects needed to develop Iskul as follows:



Development of stateless children Sponsor our student's school needs and meals.



**Development of Mastal Arikik** 

Invest in training sessions for our little teachers to improve their teaching skills.



Pondok Iskul

Endow the construction of a small space to be made Iskul's classrooms



**Iskul's Headmistress** 

Reward our Headmistress who multitasks as a housewife, a mother, a community leader and a gatekeeper for Iskul.



**Project Coordinator Based in Omadal** 

Finance a ground coordinator to ensure constant monitoring and support for school operation



Subsidise the transportation fees, photostatting of examination papers and stationery purchases.

### **Iskul's Board of Trustees**

Support member of Trustees who dedicated their spare time to administer Iskul and made work trips.

