



ZAKAAH: RAHMAHFOR THE MUSLIM UMMAH

Have the taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala in its true essence and entirety with absolute obedience in following all of His Commands and

abstaining from all of His prohibitions. Remember well, for every deed of ours will be questioned and held accountable by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala in the Hereafter.

Zakaah is from among the pillars of Islam that is obligatory upon every Muslim that has met its requirements. On the authority of Abu 'Abd ar-Rahman 'Abdullah bin 'Umar bin al-Khattaab, radiyAllahu 'anhuma, who said:

I heard the Messenger of Allah, sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam, say: "Islam has been built upon five things - on testifying that there is no god save Allah, and that Muhammad is His Messenger;

on performing salaah; on giving the zakaah; on Hajj to the House; and on fasting during Ramadan." (Agreed upon)

Zakaah is one of the proofs for the comprehensiveness of Islam. This is because Islam not only teaches the Muslims to safeguard their relationship with the Almighty Creator through acts of worship such as prayer, dhikr.

fasting, and other spiritual 'ibaadah. But furthermore, Islam teaches the Muslims to preserve good relationship amongst mankind through giving away portions of their wealth to be shared with those that are in need.

In addition, the ordainment of zakaah provides a sound proof that Islam is a religion that takes into great consideration on aspects of economy, social, physical development, education, and all other aspects pertaining to human lives.

Hence, Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala has provided guidelines for the Muslims in determining the rightful deserving recipients of zakaah. Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an:

"Zakaah expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed to collect [zakaah] and for bringing hearts together [for **Islam] and for freeing captives**

slaves] and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the [stranded] traveler an obligation [imposed] by Allah. And Allah is Knowing and Wise." (at-Tawbah 9:60)

It is clear that the categories of zakaah recipients have been determined by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala, the All-Wise. The disbursement and distribution of zakaah is actually the main purpose behind its legislation for the

Muslims. Those that are not from the categories mentioned in the verse recited earlier are not only ineligible but also haraam (prohibited) from receiving zakaah collected because that is tantamount to taking away the rights of the

recipients whom have been predetermined by Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. According to some scholars, those that disburse their zakaah to ineligible recipients, their zakaah is rendered invalid and have yet to fulfill the zakaah

obligation. Therefore, zakaah must be distributed to its rightful recipients according to the Laws decreed by Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. In this regard, it was narrated in a hadeeth by Ziad bin Harith radiyAllaahu 'anh that

Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam said:"Verily Allah is not pleased for His Prophets or others to determine the rulings in matters relating to zakaah. It is Allah Alone that has the rights to do so,

and He has prescribed it upon eight categories. If you are from among those people, then I will grant you your rights." (Abu Dawood: da 'eef but its meaning is supported by previous verse [at-Tawbah

It is based on the teachings of al-Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam that the Zakaah Board of Selangor with the role as 'amil (zakaah collector) in this state, strive its utmost in disbursing the collected zakaah

funds to those that are truly in need. Indeed, this effort will not achieve success without the support and endorsement of the zakaah payers, whom have surrendered a portion of their wealth to be distributed to the rightful recipients,

all for the sake of obeying the commands of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala and hoping for His Pleasure. According to the statement for zakaah collection and disbursement in 2010,

the Zakaah Board had collected a total of RM336.9 million. At the same time, the amount disbursed was RM330.4 million through various assistance and development programs for the eight categories legislated.

This means that 97% of the zakaah collected was distributed to the Muslims in the state of Selangor. In 2010, the fuqaraa (poor) and masakeen (needy) had received disbursement of RM127.2 million in various forms of aid

such as monetary and monthly food supply, home construction and repair, entrepreneurial capital assistance, educational scholarship, and many others. Through this, a total of about 21,000 fugaraa and masakeen in Selangor had received

tremendous benefit for their livelihood. Even their children were given the opportunity to obtain complete education just like others through school fee financial assistance, educational scholarship, and educational necessities.

We truly hope these children (of the beneficiaries) will become successful one day and further provide financial assistance to their parents and families that are in need. Indeed it is not impossible that these zakaah beneficiaries will one day be

among those paying zakaah. On the other hand, the zakaah beneficiaries (asnaf) from among the reverts (muallaf) had received disbursement of RM19.9 million through programs like skills course and training, home construction and

repair, contributions to various reverts' organizations and association, various incentives to encourage the new Muslims, financial assistance for entrepreneurship, and various other programs geared towards educating and strengthening the

'aqeedah, Islamic understanding, and selfdevelopment. Imagine the tremendous reward attained by the zakaah givers when those funds are utilized in safeguarding the 'aqeedah and religious understanding of our

new Muslim brethren that are still new in this deen. Sahl bin Sa'd radiyAllaahu 'anh reported: The Prophet sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam said to 'Ali radiyAllaahu 'anh: "By Allah, if a single person is guided by Allah through you, it will be better for you than a whole lot of red camels."

(al-Bukhaari)

In protecting the sacrosanctity of the 'aqeedah and purity of the akhlaaq of the Muslims, an amount of RM2.5 million was distributed for the category of ar-Rigaab through 'ageedah and akhlaaq rehabilitation programs conducted by the

Islamic Religious Council of Selangor (MAIS). The Zakaah Board has also disbursed **RM29.1 million** for recipients of al-Ghaarimeen via programs like dialysis treatment service, dialysis machine donations, medical treatment sponsorship,

debt repayment assistance, and funeral burial service for those leaving no heir. Indeed, these assistance programs are truly beneficial in helping those suffering from critical ailments.

How noble are those fulfilling their zakaah obligation, for their wealth are used to aid our Muslim brethren whom are facing trials and tribulations, and distress. This is from among the nobility and beauty of Islam,

teaching the Muslims to endure both joy and difficulty together as one unit. Nu'man bin Basheer radiyAllaahu 'anh reported Allah's Messenger sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam as saying:

"The similitude of believers in regard to mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever."

(Agreed Upon)

For the recipients of Fee Sabeelillaah, a total of RM108.3 million was allocated in supporting the sincere cause of upholding Islam and elevating Islamic symbols. These efforts are manifested in the RM26 million allotment for

allowances of the Fard al-'Ayn instructors whom have diligently worked to ensure that Muslim children in Selangor are receiving optimal Islamic education and understanding.

An amount of RM7.1 million zakaah funds was also granted to various Islamic organizations and bodies that are deeply involved in the work of da wah and also amr bil ma 'roof wan nahiy 'anil munkar.

Even though those giving zakaah may not be involved in these fine Islamic works, but certainly the reward from Allah will be there for them, giving up portions of their wealth sincerely in hoping for His Pleasure.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "It is He who sent His **Messenger with guidance and** the religion of truth to manifest it over all religion, although those who associate others with Allah dislike it.

O you who have believed, shall I guide you to a transaction that will save you from a painful punishment?"

(as-Saff 61:9-10)

In addition, the Zakaah Board has channeled an amount of RM14.6 million for the **Educational General Assistance** program to help finance the cost of education for the Muslims in Selangor whether at the primary, secondary, diploma,

undergraduate, or postgraduate level. An amount of RM8.2 million was also channeled to provide scholarships for those studying abroad especially in the Middle East, studying various sciences including Islamic studies, medicine,

Islamic economy, and Arabic. It is sincerely hoped that these great efforts will provide the opportunity for the Muslims in Selangor to receive adequate education, which in turn produce scholars, intellectuals, leaders, knowledgeable and

professional Muslims in the future, insha Allah. However, there is still deficiency and weakness in the zakaah distribution system that is in place now. There have been instances where legitimate zakaah recipients were left out

or deprived of their rights. In result, numerous efforts have been planned and implemented. In overcoming such loophole, the Zakaah Board humbly requests everyone to become alert

and vigilant in providing precise information regarding recipients that are truly qualified and in genuine need of zakaah funds. Verily, zakaah is a rahmah that was bestowed by Allah upon mankind.

This blessing does not only benefit its beneficiaries but also its benefactors, and the entire Muslim ummah as a whole. How noble are those hands that are keen and eager to invest their wealth in His Path.

Indeed, Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala truly loves them and surely will bestow upon them rewards that are truly immerable.

"As for he who gives and fears Allah. And believes in the best [reward]. We will ease him toward ease."

(al-Layl 92:5-7)



O Allah, You are the Almighty Lord, we are grateful unto You for having bestowed upon us **Mercy and Blessings, nourishing** us to strive to continue in strengthening the Muslim nation especially the state of Selangor, as an advanced, progressive, peaceful, and benevolent state.

We beseech and beg You, Ya Allah, to strengthen our imaan, increase our good deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our provision, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, nourish our soul with beautiful akhlaaq, guide us to the Path that is **Pleasing to You,**

protect us from Your severe tribulations such as the long drought, severe flooding, disease outbreak, violence and instability, poverty, and others, so that our land will become more peaceful and blessed.

Oh Allah, we ask You to open up the hearts of the Muslim ummah especially in Selangor, to fulfill their zakaat obligation as You had decreed in al-Qur'an. Bless the lives of those who have fulfilled their zakaat obligation, loving and caring for the poor and needy.

Purify their wealth and soul so that they will live according to that which pleases You. Protect the poor and needy from disbelief and everlasting poverty. Allaahummaa ameen



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