



Institute for Management and
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FROM BROTHEL TO ZAKAT

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This case was written by Nurul Huda Abdul Majid, Mahyuddin Abu Bakar, Munirah Kasim, Universiti Utara Malaysia and Agoos Munalis Tahir, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia . It is intended to be used as the basis for class discussion rather than to illustrate either effective or ineffective handling of a management situation.

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Ali was in dilemma. How would he help his childhood friend, Mastura emancipated from brothel. Was there any way in Islam to free a person in captivity? Ali remembered her story. It was five years ago when Mastura was just 17 years old, she got married to Hasnan, a stranger that she just met for two months. Mastura leaved Alor Setar for Kuala Lumpur to be with her husband. Unfortunately, her husband who was supposed to be her protector in joys and sorrows, sold her to brothel in Lorong Haji Taib. In hesitant, she was forced to become prostitute without any pay. The brothel had very strict security and only provided her with room, foods and clothes. Two years later, she got pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl named Sarah. According to Mastura, she broke out from the brothel with the help of her regular client. Escaped from brothel, Mastura hoped that she could start her life all over again in her hometown, Alor Star. That was when Ali met Mastura, where she begged for help from him. Ali had been working as the manager of Asnaf Development and Zakat Distribution Division in Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah (LZNK) for 10 years. He thought of how would zakah be of help to Mastura. Ali brought the matter to his boss, Haji Zakaria Othman, who had asked him to study other states practice.

Introduction

Zakat management in Malaysia is administered under the authority of states. Generally in each states, the administrations of the religion of Islam namely, an enactment was established. The enactment as states law ruled the Islamic affairs of the states. The Islamic affairs pertaining to Syariah matters were covered under the enactment wPage 6 of 25hich were given to each state religious council¹, Majlis Agama Islam Negeri (MAIN). As the governing body. MAIN also governed the administration of zakah² and was allowed to have their own zakat institutions The Islamic Religious Department or Jabatan Agama Islam Negeri is headed by the director of Islamic Religious Department. MAIN holds the duty to advise the Sultan as well as promotes the economics and social development of the Muslim

Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah

Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah (LZNK) is established in 2015. Prior to that, LZNK was known as Jabatan Zakat Negeri Kedah that was supervised by Jabatan Agama Islam Kedah (JAIK). Since 2015, LZNK undergone a transformation due to the annulment of Zakah Kedah enactment 1955. Zakah Kedah enactment 1955 now has become Lembaga Zakat Kedah Darul Aman 2015 Enactment, which empower LZNK to operate independently. Under the new enactment, Sultan of Kedah confers LZNK the autonomous power to self-govern under direct supervision of Sultan. Sultan is assisted by the board committee which consists of Mufti of Kedah, Secretary of Kedah State Government (SUK) representatives from government and non-government agencies, and the Chief Executive Operations periodically reported to the board committee during the board meeting where he served

¹ The State Islamic Religious councils coordinated by national body, namely National council of Islamic Affairs which under administration of a secretariat, JAKIM to streamline the development and advancement of Islamic affairs

² Provided under the Ninth Schedule List II, Paragraph 1 of the Federal constitutions. It also includes under the provisions of the enactment, the power for gazetted fatwas. In Malaysia the state zakah institution is either an independent body, state authority or a mixture of both.

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