e-ZAKAT4U Program: Enhancing Zakat Distribution System by Merging with Network-of-Mosque (NoM)

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Abstract: **The mosque has continuously played an active role in the guidance of the Muslim community, teaching both the young and older generations as well as producing a venue for Muslims to meet one another on religious occasions. But the mosque has much more potential than this, and it needs to be utilized fully so that many more areas of the lives of Muslims may benefit from it. The function of mosque can be divided into several parts which are as a community center, as a place of education, and as a place of worship. From here it shows that a mosque is not only focus onwership part but it covers all areas including as a centre for collecting zakat from individuals and receiving financial contribution from certain parties such as non-governmental institutions and individuals. In fact, mosque also received physical properties in a variety of shapes, including equipment until the land and buildings donated by certain parties (waqaf). Thus, when all contributions donated funds and properties are combined, then part of the mosque have the funds and property of great value which will be used as a source to contribute to the people especially the needy family. This project is proposed to increase the efficiency of zakat distribution in terms of less time consuming. For this project we choose Marang, Terengganu as the proof of concept.**

Keywords: **roles of mosque, network of mosque, business model canvas, proof of concept.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Zakat is one of the five pillars in Islam, which is made obligatory to all the Muslims. In Malaysia, Zakat institutions are establish as a medium for the recipients and receivers to pay and receive the zakat. Therefore, in order to of this project is aim to in order toa new technique or system that can enhance the existing system currently being used in Malaysia in distributing zakat funds more equally and efficiently. Through the new system proposed, it is hoped that it can increase the professionalism of zakat management, while increase the confidence of zakat payers, which later on might increase the zakat funds through Islamic financial system that eventually might increase the capability of asnaf to improve their life. Asnaf means the person who is entitled to receive the zakat. It is divided into 8 categories which are fakir- one who has neither material, possessions nor means of livelihood, miskin – one with insufficient means of livelihood to meet basic needs, amil – workers associated with the collection and distribution of zakat, muallaf – one who converts to Islam. Literally those whose heart are softened, Riqab – one who wants to free himself from bondage or the shackles of slavery, gharmin – one who is in debt (money borrowed to meet basic, halal expenditure), fisabilillah – Literal meaning 'in the way of God' but it is used for jihad and Ibnus Sabil – one who is stranded in journey. Hopefully, it might eradicate poverty significantly while strengthen social assurance among Muslim society concurrently [1].

The main objective of this project is to increase and enhance the efficiency of zakat management system in Marang, Terengganu in terms of collecting and distributing zakat to the people in need especially the asnaf. Therefore, this project highlighted the functions of mosque as a centre to collect zakat(zakat fitrah) and waqaf from the people and send a list of names of people who wish to apply for financial assistance directly to MAIDAM Terengganu. The mosque will collaborate with Marang District Office, where all the information about the people in the area is acquired and the qariah of the mosque will identify the families that qualify for zakat assistance. Then, the list of families who are eligible for the assistance will be sent to Maidam for next procedures.

The mosque has been a very important institution in the history of Islam. It is not just a place for Muslims to perform special rituals such as the prayer, reading the Qur'an, and Zikr, but it has become a centre of human development in the Muslim community. Historically, the first effort made by the Prophet s.a.w to form a Muslim society and an Islamic state in Medina was to build a mosque. Even at that time, according to Ibn Hisham, the mosque expanded to reach 18 units and continued to spread after that [2]. The Nabawi Mosque in Medina was the pulse of all important events during the time of the Prophet s.a.w, where he taught people to organize their lives and religion completely beginning from the individual to the family, community and country.

One of the roles that the mosque can play is the management of zakat distribution at the local level. Our earlier study has found that majority of zakat recipients and amil agree on the notion of localization of zakat distribution [3]. However we would like to find out at the implementation level whether the mosque could perform this task efficiently. Hence the objective of this study is to examine empirically the perception of the zakat receivers (poor and needy) and the zakat distributer (amil) on whether zakat distribution at the local level should be managed by the mosque compared with other channels of distributions. Knowing the preference of the amils and the asnafs would enable policy makers to design the most efficient method of zakat delivery at the local level so that poverty alleviation amongst the zakat receivers can be achieved effectively.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

e-Zakat4U is a propose system where all the information about the people in Marang, Terengganu is acquired from Marang District Office and the qariah of the mosque will identify the families that qualify for zakat assistance. Then, the list of families who are eligible for the assistance will be sent directly to MAIDAM Terengganu for next procedures.

3. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Based on the statistic from Zakat Terengganu, the total amount of money collected for the year 2014 is RM93.5 million and the amount distributed is RM61.6 million (Omar Pilus, YDP MAIDAM)[4].This amount is distributed to the people especially the poor people. However, not every poor people will get the zakat due to lack of efficiency in distributing zakat. Even though the amount is already there, meaning the money is ready to be distributed, but due to this problem, there is necessity to get the help from the mosque in order to name the qualified people to receive zakat.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Role of the Mosque:

The word mosque (masjid) is based on the three Arabic words: misjad that literally means to bow down; masjad means a man who touched his forehead during prostration and misjid means a small mat. However Al-Zarkasyi believes the word masjid or mosque is chosen because the mosque connotes an act of prostration in prayer practices which is the noblest act of bowing to be close as a slave to Allah s.w.t [5]. While the word zakat is literally taken from the Arabic word that means purification and expanded)[6] It also carries other connotations such as increase, welfare and also to give. The word zakat is stated in the Quran together with other words such as sadaqat (charity) and solat (prayers) Al-Quran itself states zakat as much as 82 times with the duty of prayer that shows how important the practice of zakat as the fourth pillar of Islam. The Masjid was a home and refuge for the poor, the needy and the travellers. Imam Bukhari reported that the Messenger of Allah s.a.w reserved a corner of the Masjid as a shelter for the poor who were known as the people of As-Suffah. Imam Bukhari reported, "Abdullah Ibn-Umar used to sleep in the Masjid of the Messenger of Allah s.a.w when he was still young. Individuals who are helping others can be said it is better than their retreat and remembrance of Allah SWT. This is because every Muslim is responsible for assisting people in need. For example, someone is going to meet with other people to ask for help because there's no place else could he do to get it. So it has become a mandatory stage for the person to help the person who is in distress. If a Muslim who entrusted the work to help deliver aid as task welfare officer or officers in distributing zakat, then he should give to those who deserve it. From the standpoint of the government, the government has a responsibility to the people. Therefore, any government in the world to establish certain agencies to help people. At the time of the Prophet did not exist a specific department or agency because its population was not crowded. But in the time of Umar al-Khattab nb Omar was created department or agency in managing the aid to be distributed to the needy. Allah mentions who do not want to know about Islam, he is not of my people. The role of Islam means we have to take each other out.

The use of information and communication technology (ICT) through interconnected computer networks allows individual and institutions to communicate with each other effectively and inexpensively. The widespread availability of ICT nowadays (computers, digital telecommunication, etc.) has led to the creation of an unprecedented capacity for dissemination of knowledge and information to society. Studies have found that ICT leads to the efficiency of an institution. The result showed that computerization exerted a positive effect on efficiency scores. With regard to zakat affairs, three different technological advancements are found available in zakat institutions namely zakat payment systems (ZPS), operational websites (WEB) and computerized zakat systems (CZS). Zakat payment systems refer to the available tools and devices offered by zakat institutions for zakat payment. For example, short-message-service (SMS), auto-teller machine (ATM), credit card, internet-banking, phone-banking, newspapers and magazines are among modern zakat payment systems offered by zakat institutions recently. However, some zakat institutions have offered a more varied number of zakat payment systems compared with others. (Asian Journal of Business and Accounting 6(2), 2013)

5. CONCEPTUAL SOLUTION

e-Zakat4U System is a system that built to increase the efficiency of the distribution of zakat among the asnaf with the collaboration of NoM, Marang District Office and MAIDAM(Majlis Agama Islam dan Adat Melayu Terengganu) itself. This system will be used by the person in charge(Qariah) in order to collect the details of the recipients in that particular area in Marang, Terengganu and also collecting the zakat from the payers. Then, this system will recognize and detect the person or the family who deserved to get this zakat based on their salaries. Furthermore, this system will lead to the efficiency and more manageable zakat distribution.

Fig. 1 shows the nine blocks of Business Model Canvas (BMC) based on the business proposed. Business Model Canvas is a simple tool for designing Innovative Business Models which is a simple graphical template describing the nine essential components : Customer segments, value propositions, channels, customer relationships (such as self-service or personal assistance), revenue streams, resources, activities, partnerships, and costs. The following are the proposed nine blocks of BMC for NoM; e-Zakat4U System:

Customer Segments:

The business proposed focus on people who is entitled to get the zakat. This is based on the requirements underlined by the government itself where it depends on the people salaries, their assets and also the number of dependent in the family.

Customer Relationship:

For the customer relationship, this system needs to sustain a good customer relationship. The community platform produce a scenario where knowledge can be shared and problems are solved between different clients. All information about the clients will be kept by this e-Zakat4U system and from here we can trace the people who is entitled for zakat.

Channels:

A company can deliver its value proposition to its targeted customers through different channels. Effective channels will distribute a company's value proposition in ways that are fast, efficient and effective. The process of delivering zakat to the people starts with getting all the information about the community in Marang, Terengganu from the Marang District Office (Pejabat Daerah Marang). Then all the money that had been collected by the mosques will be sent to MAIDAM Terengganu. This e-Zakat4U system will trace the families which are deserved for the help and then send all the information about the selected families to MAIDAM and the process of delivering the zakat will be proceed after that.

Value Propositions:

The collection of products and services a business offers to meet the needs of each customer. This e-Zakat4U is more specific as it is only used in Marang, Terengganu. Therefore, this system is more efficient and effective in recognizing the selected families which are eligible for the zakat assistance in more specific way. Furthermore, this system can guarantee those family will receive the zakat.

Key Activities:

The main reason on doing this project is to trace the individual or families who is entitled to get the zakat fund. This system will capture all the information about the people in Marang, Terengganu through the Marang District Office. From the details obtained, then this system will detect the eligible families who are entitled to receive zakat. Their names will be send to MAIDAM Terengganu for the next phases; delivering the money to the families.

Key Resources: The resources that are necessary to create value for the customer. They are considered an asset to the company, which are needed in order to sustain and support the business. For this e-Zakat4U system, there are two agencies which support this NoM system. They are MAIDAM Terengganu and Marang District Office. These two agencies help to support this system and make it more efficient and effective.

Key Partner:

To ensure the success of e-Zakat4U key partners and collaborators are needed that include the following quadruple helix model actors:

- MAIDAM Terengganu Terengganu Central Management of Zakat. This e-Zakat4U will engage with this agency where the details of selected families are sent here for zakat assistance.

- Marang District Office This agency helps to provide all the details about the people families who lives in Marang, Terengganu.

- Companies/Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

  - Donating money and doing corporate social responsibility (CSR)

  - The experts in these companies will share their knowledge and skills with the people.

  - Provide job opportunities to the poor families with skill sets.[10]

- Government agencies

   - Organize skill workshops for training and development for the people.

For example, MARA is already done this where the people who has interest to learn any skills such as sewing, culinary, automotive can join their programme.

- University

  - Organize seminars and workshops for sharing knowledge with the people especially the students in order to motivate them to strive for the best in their studies.

Cost Structure:

The cost structure describes the most important monetary consequences while operating under different business models. To come up with this service, some preparation are needed in order to overcome the costs issue that are going to be faced. Maintenance of the laptops and website, cost for creating domains for the websites monthly payment of Wi-Fi and allowance for the administrators.

Revenue Streams:

This system is used by the officer of MAIDAM as the administrators. Therefore, it is free from any charge and this system is part of the community service that serve for the community in the area. There is also revenues gained from this system where the contributors (companies) will advertise their products in this system and they need to pay for the service.

Key Partners	Key Activities	Value Proposition	Customer Relationships	Costumer Segments
-MAIDAM -Marang District Offices -Companies/SMEs -Government Agency -University	-Control the system and provide financial assistance -Provide information of the residents -Contribute knowledge and skills -Provide job opportunities based on their skills or expertise	-Convenient and timely distribution of zakat -Convenient and timely contribution by the public	-Provide financial assistance to the asnaf	-Asnaf -Public (donaters, experts)
	Key Resources -Zakat platform -Technology infrastructure		**Channels** -e-Zakat4U	
Cost Structure -Allowance -Wi-Fi -Maintenance			**Revenue Streams** -Advertising	

Fig 1: Business Model Canvas

6. CONCLUSION

This project is just proof of concept on the function of mosque as a platform in making the process of delivering zakat more convenient and in efficient. Other than that, this system can improve the function of the mosque as a centre for collecting funds, zakat and wakaf. Achievement of success in this world and the hereafter should started by increasing the role of mosque institutions. Therefore, by having this information system, the role of the mosque as mentioned before can be upgraded. The mosque will send all the names of the asnaf to MAIDAM directly and they will assist the people. Therefore, the asnaf do not have to go to MAIDAM in order to seek for the zakat assistance at first. This will save their time, cost and energy. If we make others' business easy, then Allah will make ease for our business. Furthermore, by using this system it also can improve the quality of life of all the asnaf in Marang socially, economically, spiritually and also their level of education. For instance, the involvement of private and government sectors. Hopefully, this system can benefits everyone and make ease of each of our works in this dunya and in akhirah. May Allah grant His blessing to us. InshaaAllah.

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