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MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT OF KARIAH MASJID: A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON THE TECHNICAL BACKGROUND OF MASJID'S MAINTENANCE STAFF IN FEDERAL TERRITORY KUALA LUMPUR

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Abstract

Although maintenance works are normally outsourced, the officer in charge of maintenance of a masjid should have a basic technical background in building maintenance management. This is essential so that the maintenance problems are correctly identified for communication with top management as well as for follow-up maintenance work by appointed contractors. This paper presents the preliminary finding of a study on the technical background of masjid official responsible in building maintenance of selected masjids kariah in Federal Territory Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The finding may be used in drafting a suitable training module for them.

Subject keyword: maintenance management, maintenance personnel, masjid

1. INTRODUCTION

When The Prophet found himself that a masjid's cleaner died, he asked why he was not informed. Then he visited the person's grave and offered a funeral prayer. This Shahih Bukhari indicates the importance of maintenance personnel of masjid in society.

A masjid will continue to be a valuable asset only if it is properly operated and maintained. It requires maintenance to keep up its structural integrity as well as its aesthetic appearance, both inside and outside.

Maintenance may be defined as the preservation of a building so that it can serve its intended purpose (Arditi & Nawakorawit, 1999). British Standard 8210 defined maintenance as the combination of all technical and administrative action intended to retain an item in, or restore it to, a state in which it can perform its required function. The previous version of the British Standard, BS 3811: 1964, defined maintenance as a combination of any actions carried out to retain an item, or restore it to, an acceptable condition. Wordsworth (2001) interpreted the action stated in the standard as the initiation, organization, and implementation of series of works. There are two processes of works that envisage, retaining and restoring. Retaining is more to the work carried out in anticipating of failure, and restoring is the work carried out after failure.

Maintenance is one of the major responsibilities in the masjid management. For example, Enakmen 2 Tahun 2001, Enakmen Pentadbiran Hal Ehwal Agama Islam (Terengganu). Bhg VI Seksyen 83 stated that The Islamic council should ensure all masjids in Terengganu in good condition and its surroundings are well maintained. Maintenance responsibilities are sometimes included in the job description of Chief Imam. For example, one of the responsibilities of the Chief Imam of Masjid Sultan Sallehuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, Shah Alam, Selangor is to monitor the maintenance works conducted by the contractors.

This paper is a preliminary attempt to investigate the technical background of masjid personnel responsible in the maintenance of kariah masjids in Federal Territory Kuala Lumpur.

2. INVESTIGATION METHOD

Kariah masjid or residential masjid means a masjid with a capacity to accommodate between 2000 and 10,000 people. A smaller masjid with a capacity of below 2000 is known as Jamek masjid. A bigger masjid of capacity up to 14,000 is district masjid while a national or state masjid has a capacity bigger than 14,000.

2.1 Selection of masjids

In Kuala Lumpur, there are 54 masjids of which 26 are kariah masjid. The maintenance of masjids are under the Development Division, Federal Territory Islamic Affairs Department (JAWI) with an engineer to look after the maintenance of all masjids. At masjid level, maintenance is the responsibility of the chief imam. It may be delegated to other committee members or masjid personnel

Administratively masjid in Kuala Lumpur are divided into 6 zones as appear in Table 1 and Map 1. For the purpose of this paper 4 kariah masjids were conveniently selected, 2 from zone 6, and one each from zone 2 and 3 as appear in Table 2 and Photos 1 to 4.

No.	Area Defined by KLCH	Administration Zoning (JAWI)
1	Jln Ipoh – Kepong - Segambut	Zone 1
2	Sentul –Manjalara	Zone 2
3	KL City Centre	Zone 3
4	Wangsa Maju – Maluri	Zone 4
5	Bandar Tun Razak - Sg Besi	Zone 5
	Bukit Jalil – Seputeh	
6	Damansara – Penchala	Zone 6

Table 1: Kuala Lumpur Zoning Area (Source: KLCH and JAWI, 2008)



Map 1: Kuala Lumpur Zoning Area (Source: KLCH and JAWI, 2008)

No.	Masjid Name	zone	Employment	Education Background	Position
1	Masjid Jamek Kg Baru	3	Volunteer	Accountancy	Treasury
2	Masjid At-Taqwa	6	Government servant (MAIWP)	Islamic Studies	Chief Imam
3	Masjid Salahuddin Al Ayyubi	2	Government servant (MAIWP)	Islamic Studies	Chief Imam
4	Masjid Al-Ghufran	6	Masjid Staff (private)	Management and administration	Chief Administrator

Table 2: Selection of masjids



Photo 1: Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur



Photo 2: Masjid AtTaqlwa Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur



Photo 3: Masjid Salahuddin Al Ayyubi, Taman Melati, Kuala Lumpur



Photo 4: Masjid Al Ghufuran Pinggir Taman Tun Dr. Ismail, Kuala Lumpur

2.2 Interview

Structured interviews were conducted to officers from Bahagian Pembangunan, JAWI and committee members or the maintenance management personnel of the selected masjid.

3. RESULTS

Maintenance of masjid is outsourced to outside contractors mainly for corrective maintenance rather than preventative. At masjid level the maintenance is managed by committee members with various backgrounds, none of them have official exposure on maintenance management. However, one of the officials, a pensioner, on his own initiative acquired basic technical background in maintenance. There is no checklist or manual inspection on the contractor's work.

4. DISCUSSION

Although the maintenance is outsourced, it is recommended that the responsible masjid officer be exposed to basic maintenance knowledge through short courses. The short course will introduce the non-technical masjid officers to planned maintenance, preventive maintenance, corrective maintenance, repair and renovation, budget allocation, maintenance planning, contract agreements. With such introductory knowledge the officer will be more effective in monitoring the contractor.

5. CONCLUDING REMARK

Masjid should create a good impression as a landmark in a locality to attract the public. A well maintained masjid will attract Muslim or Non Muslim, to come. Therefore, it should be well maintained.

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