

financial management, transparency, and the application of *fiqh al-awlawiyyat* (understanding the priorities in decision making).

(Dr) Ahmad Sani Araby bin Dato' Abdul Alim Araby, the CEO of the Malaysian Consultative Council for Islamic Organization (MAPIM), urged Islamic NGOs to implement transformational changes in their administration and leadership. MAPIM is currently conducting research with the National University of Malaysia (UKM) to empower Islamic NGOs by developing explicit guidelines for constitutional framework and execution of impactful policies, supervision of human resources and volunteerism, management of funds, investment and endowment, construction and maintenance of *asnaf* houses, *asnaf* database management, and *fiqh*-based application systems for effective administration, domestic and foreign affairs, and management of humanitarian missions. He expected Islamic NGOs in Malaysia to adopt these guidelines in the near future.

Although non-profit organisations are allowed to spend up to thirty per cent of their collection on management and administration, they should consider minimising expenses to ensure their long-term viability and resilience. NGOs can use innovative approaches to promote their causes and activities in the media, but exploitative portrayals and fraudulence are not acceptable. Associate Professor Dato' Dr Mohd Izhar Ariff bin Mohd Kashim (Deputy Dean, Faculty of Islamic Studies, UKM) urged the public to avoid scams, fraud, and money laundering by conducting background checks, verifying all media information, and acquiring reports and proofs of payment for all donations to ensure their charitable giving goes to the right direction.

Islamic NGOs in Malaysia are encouraged to obtain the ISO 9001: 2015 certification, an internationally recognised standard for Quality Management System (QMS) that will elevate their organisations to greater heights in terms of better management and professionalism, proper accounting and auditing, measuring key performance indicators, and providing effective client services. This will help them build a reputation and gain public trust in the long run.

Webinar: Zoo and Animal Well-Being during the COVID-19 Pandemic (12 August 2021)

Muhd Nur Iman Ramli

This webinar was delivered by Dr Muhammad Danial Felix Abdullah, former Deputy Director of Zoo Negara Malaysia, and Noorzakiahnum Binti Mohd Noh, Senior Assistant Director of PERHILITAN, highlighted concerns on the well-being of zoo animals during the pandemic outbreak.

Noorzakiahhanum stated that zoos are often inspected by governmental institutions and are subject to specific regulations under the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), an umbrella organisation for the global zoo and aquarium society. As stated in WAZA's code of ethics, 'its members should make all efforts in their power to encourage substandard zoos and aquariums to improve and reach appropriate standards.' If it is clear that the funding or the will to improve is not there, WAZA would support the closure of such zoos and aquariums.

Zoo closures since the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) have made it impossible for them to earn enough revenue to fund animal care expenditures. While some believe that keeping animals in zoos is inhumane, Dr Muhammad Daniel believed that one should consider the value of zoos and why they were founded in the first place. A zoo's three focal areas, according to him, are conservation, education, and scientific research. Animals at zoos are treated with dignity and have all of their requirements fulfilled.

There are also basic guidelines for animals in a captive managed situation known as the '5 Freedom', that is, 1) freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition, 2) freedom to express normal behaviour for the species, 3) freedom from fear and distress, 4) freedom from pain, injury and disease, and 5) freedom from discomfort due to the environment. These guidelines are globally recognised as the gold standard in animal welfare.

Zoos are facing a number of issues as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Zoos' revenue is reduced by up to 80 per cent or more as a result of the lockdown, which triggers a reduction in manpower to reduce management costs. When the zoo is closed to guests, zookeepers must continue to feed the animals and provide medical and enrichment care. In this case, the government's Enhanced Wage Subsidy is important for zoo's survival.

In terms of bio-security, parts of the zoo will be disinfected, and a new SOP was added to the zoo's preexisting SOPs. This additional safety precaution will guarantee that the disease is not transmitted among the animals. Animal behaviour will change as a result of the new routine, especially for animals that interact well with people. Zoos are keeping their animals on same routines as before lockdown to avoid the animals becoming accustomed to the absence of humans and becoming frightened when visitors return.

The food supply chain will be affected as a result of the shutdown. Some zoos do not have the capacity to preserve fresh fruits and vegetables for an extended period of time, therefore they require regular fresh food deliveries.

To tackle these issues, Muhammad Daniel proposed that fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste be donated to zoos. This includes tonnes of unsold produce from food supply networks affected by MCO, as well as consumable produce seized by the Quarantine and Inspection Services.