

**MANAGEMENT OF BUILDING MOSQUE IN MALAYSIA****E. M. Mazlan\*, A.I. Che-Ani and A. Mohd Sarman**

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**ABSTRACT**

This paper refers to the maintenance management of building mosques in Malaysia whether administrative or management on the physical building itself. Mosque is an important asset in the history of Islamic resurrection. As one of the centers that play an important role in symbolic areas of Islam, mosques continue to function as their universal function. In this era of globalization, the functions and roles

of mosques are required to be more widespread in accordance with the passage of time. Apart from a place of worship, the mosque is also use as a place to gather, discuss and plan strategies that are not just limited to the field of da'wah but also includes trade, legislation, and dissemination of knowledge, and many more. Every building of the mosque which has been completed and used should be maintained effectively as not to deteriorate as well as decreasing the quality rate in terms of physical components and structural resistance. Depreciation will apply to the components and building elements found in the mosque. Checks on damages to the mosque building should be conducted so that the damages can be identified and conservation can be made promptly. Any building that has been and is in operation requires perfect maintenance to avoid any problems and risks of safety, comfort and health on building users. There are some damages that are identified on the building elements as well as the causes of the damage.

**KEYWORDS:** Mosque Building, Mosque Management, Maintenance and Assesment of Building Conditions.

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to look into the maintenance management of mosque in Malaysia. In general, management can be defined as a process of acquiring and mobilizing organizational inputs from financial, human and others in an efficient and effective way of achieving the objectives of an organization. In the Islamic management system, the mosque is a wakaf institution, whether it is provided by the government or socially submitted by an individual to a particular individual or to a government institution to be managed and administered.<sup>[1]</sup>

To manage mosques effectively, mosque management should always be aware of the current development to ensure that the activities and programs that are implemented runs smoothly through the 6P concept in management ie planning, implementation, monitoring, control, evaluation and correction.<sup>[2]</sup> More importantly, good management should be translated in the form of execution and action that the mosque can function fully as suggested by the Prophet. Excellent mosque needs to be planned, led, managed and administered well as well as based on the provisions of syarak.<sup>[3]</sup>

## MOSQUE ADMINISTRATION BACKGROUND

The existence of a mosque is a place of worship such as praying and iktikaf for Muslims. Malaysia has a large number of mosques with various designs. Apart from the place of worship, the mosque is also used as a place to gather, discuss and plan strategies that are not just limited to the field of da'wah but also includes trade, legislation, and dissemination of knowledge, and many more. The unique constructions of the mosque as well as the attractive infrastructure are also one of the attractions for domestic and foreign tourists when visiting Malaysia. The mosque has no permanent appearance, it depends on the design of past Islamic architecture, the culture of the local Muslim community, the form of geometry, the modern design and it also refers to the particular analogy or symbol.

In the management of a mosque there are two teams involved, the first is the mosque committee and the second is the mosque officers. The real party that is in charge of planning and organizing all the activities of the mosque is the mosque committee where usually members of the committee consisting of 10 to 15 people are appointed using to certain methods. While mosque officers that consists of nazir, imam, khatib, bilal, mungkim and noja (siak), they are appointed by the Council or the State Islamic Religious Department and are given a certain allowance. The officers only perform their assigned duties and are not directly

involved in the planning and implementation of the mosque management. There are mosques that appoint a Nazir an imam and a khatib as a member of the mosque committee and some invite the officials to attend the meeting only when necessary.<sup>[4]</sup>

The method of appointing a mosque committee members is quite different between states in Malaysia.<sup>[5]</sup> There are three types of methods, the first method is through the selection at the general meeting of members of the parliament, where the meeting selects the candidate for all posts and the list of candidates is submitted to the State Council / State Islamic Affairs Department to be confirmed. The second method is that the Council appoints certain individuals to fill key posts such as chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and some committee members, while the general meeting of the members of the parliament only appoints several other members of the committee. Next, the third method is that the State Islamic Religious Council appoints all members of the committee from chairman to office to ordinary members. Most mosques do not give allowance to members of their committee. The Chairman is responsible to lead the mosque management team and also control all matters pertaining to the funds and property of the mosque.<sup>[4]</sup>

In this facility management system, only a few guidelines and options exist that can be applied to achieve the objectives; such as identifying maintenance work by either preventing or planning maintenance. For example, in the state of Perak, the management of a mosque is managed through the integration of two teams.<sup>[6]</sup> The purpose of this mosque management is to restore the functions and roles of the Mosque as required by syarak, making the mosque the center of the activities for Muslims, as well as place to the spread knowledge and information and also acts as a catalyst for the progress of Muslims in the world and in the hereafter and to portray Muslims as good people.

### **MOSQUES FINANCIAL SOURCES**

In general there are two sources of funds received by the mosque ie; firstly, there is the allocation from the state and also the governments and secondly public contributions <sup>[7]</sup>. Funds received from the state government are aimed in maintaining the mosque and also managing the mosque religious activities. While the public's contribution are use to finance social activities that are not funded by the state government. Because these funds are obtained from two different sources, the management procedures for each of these funds are also different.

The State Islamic Religious Council (MAIN) is responsible in managing the funds allocated by the state government, while mosque committee members are responsible in managing public contributions. However, as suggested, with limited funds received by the mosque, it is difficult to form a division in work and internal control systems in the organization.<sup>[7]</sup> Hence, the problem of fund management deviation may occur.

### **MOSQUE BUILDING MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT**

The poor understanding in the maintenance management process of building maintenance is a major source of difficulty.<sup>[8]</sup> This is due to the lack of knowledge and less understanding in the role of maintenance in an organization.<sup>[9]</sup> Therefore, the value of assets of the building will decrease if the maintenance work is not well done.<sup>[10]</sup> In fact, building maintenance is important in an organization in order to achieve the goals of the organization.<sup>[11]</sup>

In general, the maintenance of a mosque includes the activities in maintaining the mosque facility to be in good working condition. Although some of the newly built buildings are still in good condition and capable of upgrading facilities and providing a better-quality environment, it will not always stay new for its lifetime.<sup>[12]</sup> This is because all the facilities are getting older and there are always repairing process and overhaul in maintenance-related issues that occurs before the building is completed.<sup>[10]</sup>

According to the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), funds use to manage the maintenance of the mosque should be sought from time to time according to the physical requirements and conditions of the building. There are three maintenance categories that are usually done, such as repairing, minor repairing and modifications or upgrades (if any). In addition, the poor maintenance supervisory system also exists in maintenance management in Malaysia as a result of an uncertain objective management of assets.<sup>[13]</sup>

Strategic management methods need to be highlighted to improve effectiveness, provide control over maintenance work, improve quality, affordability and to also create optimum maintenance processes.

### **EXAMINATION AND DAMAGES ON MOSQUE BUILDING**

Building inspection is specific field of work that has been practiced overseas especially in the United States, the United Kingdom and other European countries.<sup>[14]</sup> Inspection of the building is important as most mosque buildings have their own unique construction and

should be kept safe to use and always in good condition. Accordingly, it is better that periodic inspection are done on it in order to identify what kind of damages take place on the building and subsequently carry out a follow-up actions to treat the damages and maintain the building.<sup>[15]</sup>

Typically, building inspection reports are provided upon completion of the inspection work. The purpose is to identify the type, shape and extent of damage on the existing buildings. These assignments are usually done by various parties such as Architects, Builders, Building Surveyors, Civil Engineers and Structures as well as other qualified and experienced parties in the field of building conservation work.

The purpose of the building inspection is generally diverse and it depends on the desirability and the goals to be obtained as a result of the inspection work. Among the main purposes of the building inspections being carried out in<sup>[16]</sup> and<sup>[17]</sup> are to:

- i. Meet the needs of the building itself that cannot escape from experiencing any damages to it.
- ii. Identifying the type of damages that occurs on the building and to provide advice on the consequences.
- iii. Managing and coordinating work that is related in inspecting, maintaining and repairing the buildings.
- iv. Verifying the capability of the building equipment whether it works properly or vice versa.
- v. Determining whether the building complies with legislative standards such as the laws and also the guidelines that are enforced by the authorities.
- vi. Making an estimation of the current situation of the building for assessment and audit purposes.

From the point of view of global aspect, building inspections is a very effective method in providing data and design information for future development purposes. In discussing the importance of inspection these buildings, it is necessary for the inspectors to know the objectives of the inspection therefore enabling them to thoroughly evaluate from various aspects and possibilities. Six main objectives of the inspection:

- i. Assessing a product whether it is in a good condition or not;
- ii. Identifying whether the process or the maintenance work changes or not;
- iii. Measuring the capability of a process or the maintenance work at the building;

- iv. Evaluating the accuracy of the inspectors in carrying out the maintenance work;
- v. Determining the effectiveness of measurement methods on the building; and
- vi. Controlling information and also designing a product that last.

### **TYPE OF DAMAGES ON A BUILDING**

Generally, there are many types of damages on a building that often occur to most of the main elements of mosque building in Malaysia. Some of the examples of damage to the building are like the window are detached, moisture effects, part of the roof gone, the roofing frame and others. In addition, these damages also occur frequently on the external wall, ceiling, door and the fittings of the inner wall and others.

Here are 10 types of building damages that often occur to the mosque buildings such as:

- i. Damages to buildings external wall elements.
- ii. Damages to the building internal wall element.
- iii. Damages to the building door elements and equipment.
- iv. Damages to the building window elements and fittings.
- v. Damages to the buildings lower and upper floors.
- vi. Damages to the building stairs element.
- vii. Damages to the building ceiling element.
- viii. Damages to the building roof element.
- ix. Damages to buildings on building facilities elements.
- x. Damages to the building other elements.

Examples of damage to the ceiling elements of the building are made of research materials at the Crystal Mosque, Kuala Terengganu.



**Figure 1: Damage to building ceiling elements, Crystal Mosque, Kuala Terengganu.**

### **IDENTIFYING THE CAUSE OF THE DAMAGES**

Through this study, the cause of the damages to the building can be identified. Identification of the causes of the damage building is important for the purpose of predicting and

controlling the damage, the damage control is better than repairing. The saying goes, preventing is better than cure.

Damages on building are a common phenomenon that occurs to every building. Damages to most mosque buildings in Malaysia are different in terms of the damage and the rate of the time taken for the damage to occur either it is slow or fast. Some damages occur at a fast rate, and some occur at a slower pace. However, the rate of damage that will continue to occur to most of the major elements of the building over a variety of factors affecting the physical condition of the building. Damages can be caused by errors in design or construction not in accordance with specifications. Construction of building elements should be carefully designed and constructed so that building functions can be maximized and sustained over a long period, especially in equatorial climates.<sup>[18]</sup>

Generally there are many causes that can prevent damages to the building from happening. In the various causes of damage to the building, the most important cause is gravity; followed by acts of human action; and ultimately the influence of the weather and the environmental impacts such as botanical, biological, chemical and insect<sup>[19]</sup>. However, according to him again, the main factor that causes the damages on the building is caused by human action. The cause of building damage is as follows:

- i. The poor structure can cause damages and collapse due to the natural attraction of gravity over a long period of time.
- ii. Human activity such as negligence, vandalism, fire and construction work nearby can also cause damage to the building.
- iii. Weather damage is caused by radiation rays, air humidity, wind, rain, groundwater content and high salt content in soil.
- iv. Natural disasters include damages and destructions caused by floods, storms and earthquakes.
- v. Botanicals damage and destruction of stone structures or brick walls are caused by the creeping roots of trees and other plants.
- vi. Biology damage is caused by acid action produced from bacteria and green plants such as moss that grow on rocks which react chemically with the structure of the building materials.
- vii. Fungi and mushrooms damage to organic building materials such as wood by fungus, mildew, mold and yeast that do not require any sunlight to survive.

viii. Insects and pests damages and weaken wood structure caused by insects such as termites and pests such as bird's nest and erosion reactions from bats.

## CONCLUSION

Mosque building is a country's existing physical resources that must be fully utilized to help achieve the Vision of 2020 and to sustain Malaysia's sustainable development. The physical condition of the mosque is good to optimize its function through the activeness of its activities and have a positive impact on religion, nation and country. The main focus of this research is in managing the mosque maintenance. Therefore, in line with the function and the importance of the mosque as a place of worship, it is important to ensure that the building is always available and functioning as to ensure comfort and satisfaction. Inspection does not only ensure the level of serviceability can be achieved but also allows the mosque to conform to its designs and features.

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