

DESIGNED FOR DIVERSITY

THERE are many ways to give and receive aid. That diversity, a part of our heritage, is reflected in the versatility and robustness of the cashless payment system promoted by the MyKasih Foundation.

Since 2013, Lembaga Zakat Selangor (LZS) has used the proprietary software developed by Dialog Innovation Ventures Services Sdn Bhd to distribute zakat, the money given by Muslim haves to Muslim have-nots. Zakat funds move directly from LZS to beneficiaries without mingling with funds in the general MyKasih kitty.

Savings from the cost of logistics, manpower and wastage are churned back into more zakat. Selangor reported a zakat payout of RM829.9 million in 2018, up from RM616.5 million in the previous year, suggesting an overall improvement in getting aid to individual people. In 2019, LZS implemented the Back To School programme using the MyKad to buy school uniforms, stationery and books for 70,000 beneficiaries.

The Majlis Agama Islam Melaka began MyKad food aid for 8,000 in 2015 and in 2018, it started a Back To School programme for 10,000 children. Zakat Pulau Pinang began food aid in 2019.

Another programme, called Recycle For Life, provides cash value through a smartcard for recyclable items. The smartcards can be used to pay for goods sold at participating stores, school canteens and bookshops. Cardholders bring recyclables to designated collection points where cash value is loaded upon exchange. More than 37,000 Recycle For Life cards have been issued to schoolchildren, university and college students, households, working adults and government agencies. ■



Using a handheld terminal, cash value is loaded onto the Recycle For Life smartcard