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## A STUDY OF MOSQUE MIMBAR ENTRANCE

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### **Abstracts**

*One of the mosque component or elements is mimbar. Mimbar is a place where khatib giving khutbah or speech. This research is about a study of mosque mimbar entrance. The aim of study is to identify mosque mimbar entrance typology. This study through observation of Mosque mimbar around Kota Setar district. Data collected by taking photograph and site visit. As a result, based on data collected shows that there are several type of mosque mimbar entrance which is entrance from front, side and from back. Most of the mosque mimbar entrance is from the front which is facing qiblat.*

*Keywords: mosque, mimbar, entrance, qiblat, khutbah*

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## INTRODUCTION

Every muslim know that mosque is place for them to pray and praise to Allah S.W.T. Mosque become important place for muslim together to do an activity such as learning centre, war strategy and so on. At the same time mosque is for muslim to learn about life in this world and after death (akhirat). Muslim also learns at mosque about Islamic law which is knowledge likes muamalah (business) matter, people relationship among muslim with muslim or muslim with non-muslim.



Fig. 1. Old Mosque Pengkalan Kakap, Merbuk, Kedah.



Fig. 2. Mimbar Of Old Mosque Pengkalan Kakap, Merbuk, Kedah



Fig. 3. Early Mosque Mimbar Design in Kedah

All the activities will do in mosque and mimbar is a place to give all information related to Islam. So that, mimbar becomes an important place and role of Muslim society to enhance 'Syiar Islam'. Our prophet Muhammad S.A.W (peace be upon him) build first mosque in Madinah after hijrah from Mekah to Madinah called Quba' Mosque in year 622 M or First Hijrah in Islamic calendar. Earlier than hijrah Madinah had known as Yathrib. The name was change to Madinah after Rasulallah and His follower hijrah or move from Mekah to Madinah.

After that Rasulallah built market or bazaar to encourage Muslim to be businessman. Bazaar was built to break monopoly of non Muslim business. Goods and prices can be controlled by Muslim as well. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) had an experience to do business with Siti Khatijah as His employer. Siti Khatijah become Prophet Muhammad wife after she likes his personal integrity such as trusty, generous, helpful, kinds and all good manners (nilai-nilai murni).

Rasulallah built a centre for Muslim for their religious worship (ibadah). Mosques become a placed to perform religious obligations (beribadat). Hadith say: The person who performs ablution at his house, come to Masjid Quba' and perform prayer will get the reward of umrah.

One of the channels to give information, knowledge to the Muslim by using khutbah. Khutbah is a speech by khatib who is presenter to the makmum (audience). Khutbah is given by khatib standing on mimbar. Mimbar should be used in Jumaat pray (Friday pray), Aidilfitri pray and Aidiladha pray in Islam religious.

Mimbar become an element or component in mosque building. At the same time another component or element like main prayer hall, dome, ablution, iwan (gateway), and ablution pool (kolah), minaret (tower), dikka and kursi. Every single component plays its own role and still used in the mosque design. The design somehow can be different depends on requirement by owner, but the elements mimbar should be there.

Architecture styles are differing among mosque in China compare to architecture styles in Malaysia, India or Indonesia, but the main element like mimbar is using to build a mosque. Most of the people just know that mimbar is a place to give khutbah. This research project might explore another dimension perception mimbar in Islam religious.

Mimbar must be respected as important and holy place. It rules as a place to give sermons or khutbah, advice Muslim about which wrong or right in Islam religious. Rasulallah endorsed important of mimbar in hadith. In hadith show the important to say in a good phase or word on the mimbar. An evident due to this matter refer to hadith from Prophet Muhammad. "Dari Jabir bin Abdullah Al-Anshari, sesungguhnya Rasulallah S.A.W. bersabda: Barang siapa yang bersumpah di atas mimbarku seraya berdusta, maka sama halnya dia mempersilari pantatnya (punggungnya) pada neraka" (Imam Malik dari Adib Bisri Mustofa).

From the hadith above, stated that Rasulallah S.A.W. remind his followers to use mimbar give right thing in Islam which mean don't lie on the mimbar. Mimbar is not a place for cheating people and make people more confuse in Islamic matters. Once somebody lying on the mimbar, it presents himself into the hell.

In other perspective, mimbar also have decoration itself. In Islam there are a lot of art like khat, painting, timber or rock carvings, woven fabric, carpet, porcelain, or pottery, language, poem and so on. In the khat art divided into the various types like nasakh, thuluth, kufi, raqa'ah, diwani, farisi, raihani and maghribi. Decorative details at mimbar usually have an art like timber

carving using nature motif like flora. It must be follows as syarak (syariah) or the muslim code of religious law.

### **DEFINITION OF MIMBAR**

Kamus Besar Bahasa Melayu Utusan (1995) defines mimbar as a podium, stage place of orientation (pidato), tribune (rostrum), and place to give views or idea and column (in newspaper).

Utusan Malaysia (2002) defines: Mimbar bermaksud tempat imam berdiri menyampaikan khutbah di hadapan orang ramai. Sejarah mimbar bermula ketika Nabi Muhammad SAW berkhutbah pada hari Jumaat di Madinah dengan cara berdiri dan berpegang pada sebatang pokok kurma. Mimbarnya begitu sederhana iaitu mempunyai tiga tangga batang kayu dan nabi berdiri di tangga teratas. Ia dicipta oleh tukang kayu bernama Bakum yang juga pernah terlibat dalam kerja-kerja membaik pulih Kaabah di Mekah.

Utusan Malaysia (2002), the phrase above stated that mimbar is define as a place of imam standing in and giving khutbah in front of jemaah or listeners. The history of mimbar stated when Prophet Muhammad giving khutbah on Friday pray by standing on mimbar and handle kurma (dates) tree. The mimbar is very humble with three steps and Prophet Muhammad stand at top or step number three. Prophet Muhammad mimbar construct by carpenter name as Bakum and he involve in repairing Kaabah in Mekah.

First mimbar used by Rasulullah for khutbah using kurma (dates) tree. Nowadays, when technology comes through, the material like concrete, glass and steel is used. At the same time, an evolution through time to time mimbar element comes with an addition of chair, microphone, and place for kitab (text holder) and so on.

### **DEFINITION OF SYARIAT (SYARAK)**

Referred to Oxford Dictionary (the Oxford Mini dictionary 3rd Edition) (2001), Syariah is refer to the Muslim code of religious law. Muslim code of religious: including about right ways of life, fikah (fiqh), tasawuf, sirah and so on. It is important to Muslim as a guideline to manage world and Muslim people preparing for next hereafter or called akhirat. All those Muslim code must follow Al-Quran and Sunnah Prophet Muhammad S.A.W.

Al-Quran is given by Allah through wahyu to Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. It makes easy or facilitate Muslim to continue their life in this world. In Al-Quran a lot of guide or command direct from Allah. After that Al-Quran is compiling in written form. Another form of Muslim code of religious law is through Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. way of life called Sunnah. Anything comes from Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. through his voice, verbal, behavior or distinctive personal habit, way of doing something is can used as a code of religious law or syariah. Prophet Muhammad well known as mukalaf which is meant he never does wrong behavior. All his behavior is good manners. This is made him as a last prophet in the world and no more prophets after him. But nowadays some people claimed them as prophet, but it fake.

### **DEFINITION OF FATWA**

Refer to 'Kamus Besar Bahasa Melayu', Fatwa is defining as decision making by Mufti against situation or Muslim issues. Decision making by Mufti based on his knowledge about Islam through referring Al-Quran and Sunnah. Usually, decision making made in fatwa committee. The committee seat together and discuss about the issue or view discrepancy among Muslim and finally come with fatwa use all Muslim people. Decision making or fatwa made to solve the problem among people for Muslim good condition or relationship. For example, fatwa about smoking in Malaysia, lot of people or Muslim smoking. Smoking gave bad effect for body. Thus, fatwa made to avoid Muslim to have smoking. Discussion among knowledgeable Muslim (alim ulama) and Mufti committee called Syura Council (Majlis Syura).

## **FUNCTIONS OF MIMBAR**

Datuk Rizuan Abdul Hamid (1998) said first mosque mimbar use in Prophet Muhammad house in Madinah when has a lot of his followers. Mimbar make Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. stand at higher level of their follower to make easy for listening Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. voice and to make clearer for better message deliver.

Mimbar is important element of mosque. It can be described though it function related to mosque activities. For example, most of the mimbar functioned as placed for deliver khutbah. Mosque used for Friday pray (Solat Jumaat) used mimbar for khatib deliver khutbah. Khatib use mimbar to make him higher than jemaah (listeners). It makes easy to give him voice to the audience or listeners. At the same time eye contact between khatib and jemaah (listeners) can be happen. Between this visual make jemaah (listeners) more concentrates to khutbah by khatib. Furthermore, it made jemaah more focusing due to khutbah contents.

Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanri in his article about rules for the Friday pray (solat Jumaat) khutbah had written that once all people have gathered together, the imam should sit on mimbar and the mu'azzin should call out the adhaan in front of him. Immediately after the adhaan the imam should stand up and deliver the khutbah.

In case of Friday pray (solat Jumaat), khutbah given before solat or pray. This is how mimbar used for delivering the khutbah. However, in Eid pray (Aidilfitri or Aidil Adha prays) the differencing compares to Friday pray (solat Jumaat) is khutbah will deliver after the solat (pray) and using the same mimbar to deliver the khutbah.

Furthermore, Friday pray is performing every week on Friday. Muslims come together into mosque for praying. In point of fact, Friday pray is replacement of zohor pray in daily. Friday is become special day for Muslims to do their duty to Allah. Here, mimbar function as place for deliver khutbah to complete the Friday pray.

Eid Pray have divide into two pray which is Aidilfitri (Eid ul-Fitr) and Aidiladha (Eid ul-Ad'haa). Eid ul-Fitr is celebrating on 1st Syawal in Hijrah (Hijh) calendar and Eid ul-Ad'haa is celebrating on 10th Zulhijjah in the same Islam calendar every year.

Friday pray (solat Jumaat) is wajib (compulsory) however for Eid pray is just sunat (Sunnah). Sunat mean not as compulsory, whether want to do or do not want to do. But Eid pray are encouraged (dialakkan) to perform it. It also symbols of victory for Muslim done their one month fasting before Eid ul-Fitr day on 1st Syawal and symbol of victory for Muslim pilgrims after perform hajj (haji) at Mecca.

Refer to Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanri in his article was stated that after the salaah (Eid pray), the imam (leader) has to stand on the mimbar and deliver two khutbah. He should sit down in-between the two khutbah to the extends that he sits between the khutbah of jum'ah (Friday pray). All situations involved, showing that the important of mimbar for muslim perform their solat (pray), khutbah and so on. In the same way of role of mimbar Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanri had wrote about another role of mimbar.

A sahabi said that Rasulullah sallallahu alayhi wa salam used to recite Surah Qaaf very regularly in his khutbah so much so that I learn surah Qaaf merely by listening to Rasulullah sallallahu alayhi wa salam reciting it on mimbar.

Mimbar had used as place for read Al-Quran and deliver what Allah want Muslim to be. Al-Quran is a main guideline for Muslim to refer in their life. Al-Quran is complete reference for Muslim to know what Allah want Muslim can do or cannot to do. At the same time Sunnah by prophet Muhammad also be a reference for Muslim. This two of references must practice in Muslim life for better living in this world and here after (akhirat) or after death. "Ibnu Umar menceritakan, adalah Rasulullah s.a.w berkhotbah dua khutbah pada hari Jumaat dengan berdiri, dan beliau duduk di antara dua khutbahnya itu." (Riwayat Bukhari dan Muslim)

Refer to paragraph above describe from Ibnu Umar had said, Rasulullah s.a.w deliver two khutbah on Friday. He stands and seat between two khutbah. (Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim). This is showing the vital of khutbah and the sunnah Rasulullah SAW when he perform Friday pray. At the same time mimbar participate function as a place to give khutbah.

Drs Sidi Gazalba (1989) in his book had said mimbar play role as a place to appoint (leadership) khalifah after Prophet Muhammad SAW pass away (wafat). Once khalifah appointed, he will give khutbah agreed as choosen khalifah (leader) replace Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.

Al -Hafiz Abdul Ghani bin Abdul Wahid Al-Maqdisy (2008) said mimbar as a place for doa or invocation to Allah. "Beliau Muhammad SAW mendapat pengaduan atas kemarau yang berpanjangan, dan tiada turun hujan, sementara saat itu beliau berkhotbah jum'at di atas mimbar. Maka beliau (Muhammad SAW) pun berdoa, sementara di langit di langit tak ada gumpalan awan. Secara tiba-tiba datanglah mendung yang bergulung-gulung sebesar gunung, dan turunlah hujan yang berkepanjangan hingga hari jum'at yang berikutnya. Dan muncullah pengaduan pada beliau atas banyaknya hujan tersebut, sehingga beliau (Muhammad s.a.w) pun berdoa kembali. Dan hujan pun terhenti, hingga orang-orang keluar dari rumah mereka berjalan di bawah terik matahari"

Refer to above paragraph had explain that Rasulullah s.a.w had make doa to Allah on mimbar. His doa enlightened about requested by one of his follower when he still on mimbar and gave khutbah. Prophet Muhammad had doa to get rain from Allah and Allah gave it for a week. However the next Friday pray the follower requested again want to stop the rain and Prophet Muhammad s.a.w had doa again to Allah. Allah had given it till people can go out under good weather condition or under heat of sun.

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Mosque mimbar design is very important as a one of the mosque design elements. However, there is no specific design guideline to design mimbar. The specific issues of this study are:

- 1) There is not stated about mosque mimbar design in Uniform Building by Law 1984
- 2) Prophet Muhammad mosque mimbar is by using three steps, use timber material with humble design. Refer to figure 4 wrote that how Prophet Muhammad mosque mimbar.
- 3) There is no guideline about mosque mimbar guideline follow syariat.

Kejadian manusia yang dikurniakan akal fikiran berbanding makhluk lain memberi pengiktirafan yang tertinggi secara tidak langsung sesuai dengan penciptaanNya. Tanpa ilmu, manusia telah mengabaikan amanah yang diberikan Allah SWT sebagai khalifah di muka bumi sepertimana firmanNya yang bermaksud:“Kami telah menawarkan amanah kepada langit, bumi dan gunung-ganang, tetapi semuanya enggan untuk memikul amanah itu dan mereka bimbang tidak mampu melaksanakannya (berat), lalu dipikullah amanah itu oleh manusia..”

(al-Ahzab 33:72)

Namun, proses mendapatkan ilmu memerlukan kestabilan dari sudut rohani dan jasmani kerana dua unsur inilah manusia dicipta menurut Islam. Menurut Yusuf al-Qaradhawi, manusia terbentuk daripada dua unsur iaitu unsur bumi dan unsur langit atau unsur tanah (turab atau thin atau hama’masnun) serta unsur roh yang dapat dilihat kejadiannya menerusi penciptaan Adam AS (Qaradhawi, 2015). Oleh yang demikian, soal kerohanian perlu dititikberatkan dalam perkara yang melibatkan keilmuan demi kelangsungan kehidupan makhluk yang digelar manusia.



Fig. 4. Prophet Muhammad mosque mimbar design. Source: Utusan Malaysia (2002)

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Through this research, aims are set as follow:

- 1) To identify mosque mimbar elements in term of entrance direction.

## RESEARCH SCOPES

Research will be cover around Alor Setar of Kedah Darul Aman which is including an aspect of shape, size, location, stair/step, colour, material used and decoration.



Fig 5. Mimbar Design

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology for this project research will use premier data, study and secondary data. Primary data is information getting from Mufti of Kedah state, Fatwa member of council and architect. For secondary data project research is using reference like Al-Quran, Shahih Muslim, newspaper and Uniform Building by Law 1984.

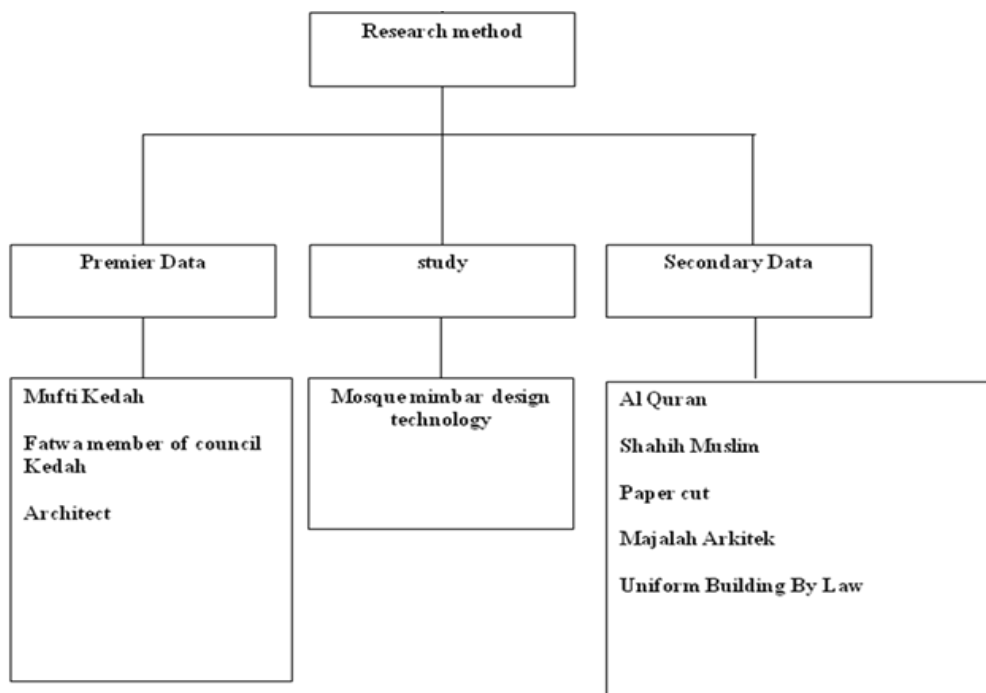


Fig. 6. Research Methodology



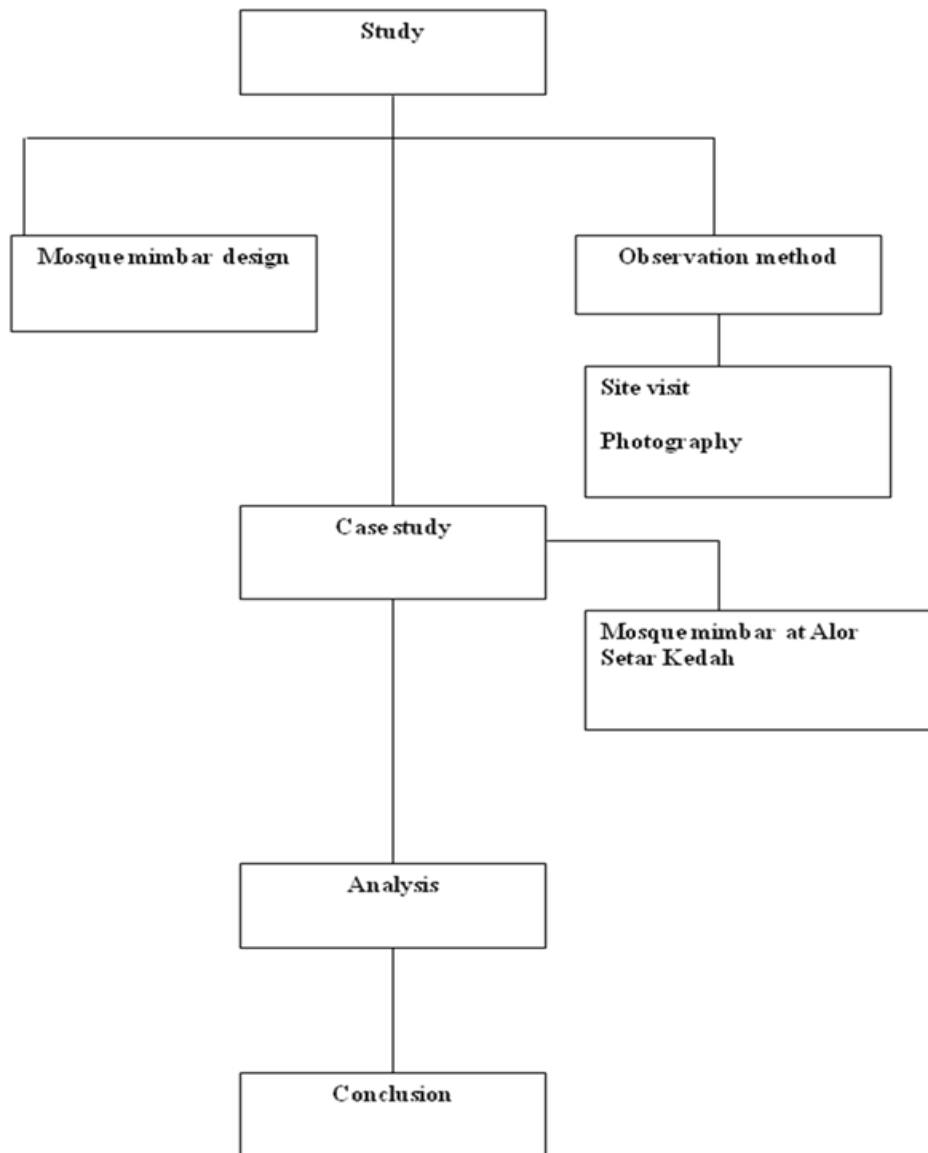


Fig 7. Research Methodology (Continue)

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY OF MOSQUE MIMBAR

### Entrance direction of Mosque Mimbar

In term of size of mimbar, there is no boundary to design size of mimbar. Mimbar size should be not wasted design. For example, mimbar is design for one person at one time, so it must be design with the size of one person. One of the roles of mimbar to have visual contact between khatib who gave khutbah and jemaah or follower (listeners).

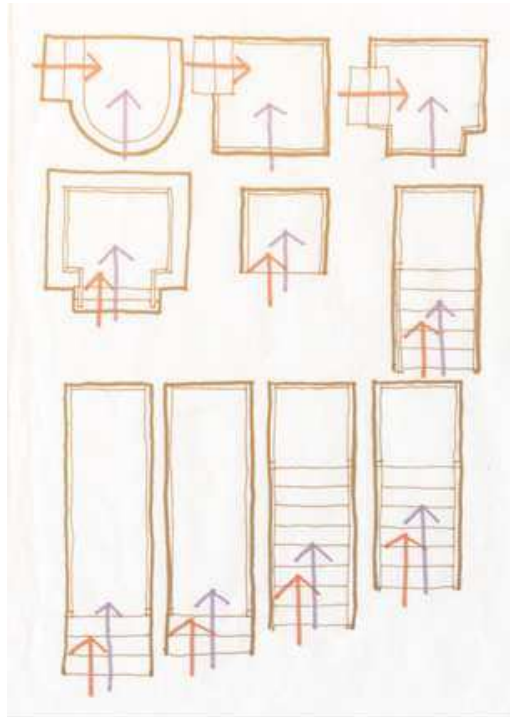


Fig. 8. Entrance of Mimbar (Red is entrance direction, purple is Qiblat Direction)

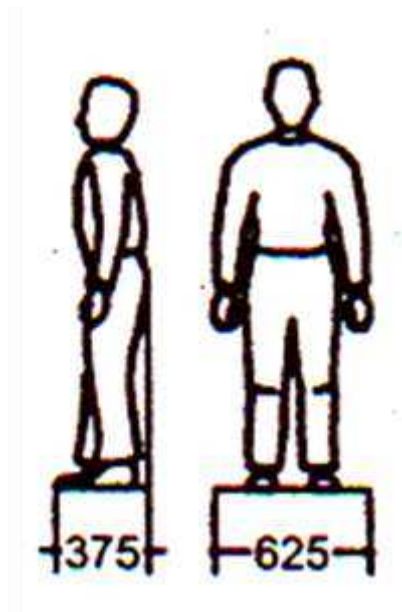
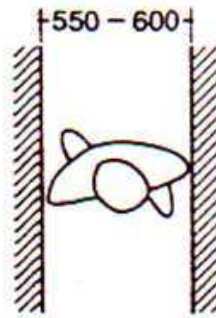


Fig. 9. Elevation space requirement for one person (in millimetre).  
Source: Metric Handbook (Planning and Design Data)



**b** *One person width (750 clearance would give comfort for various postures).*

Fig. 10. Plan space requirement for one person (in millimetre).

Source: Metric Handbook (Planning and Design Data)

Islam is not rigid religious and can be evolving thought time to time. Mimbar also can be evolving appropriately time to time with current technology. Most important is mimbar still used for khutbah and so on as follow syariat and sunnah by Rasulullah s.a.w.

Commemoration (peringatan) by Allah in Al-Quran (Al-Baqarah) had said; Mafhumnya sesungguhnya membazir itu saudara syaitan. (Surah Al-Baqarah)

From the phrase above had pontificate or prohibit Muslim to misspend and said who do misspend is referred to syaitan (satan) relative or group. Satan (syaitan) is enemy to Muslim in Islam. Satan behaviour must be avoided by Muslim to follow or to do.

In evolution or addition in Islam religion can be call as bid'ah. Bid'ah means an addition in Islam religion which is it does not happen or not do it by Rasulullah but it happen to Muslim after Rasulullah wafat (pass away). For example, maulidul rasul (Prophet Muhammad birthday celebration) is not celebrated in Rasulullah life. But it celebrates now to memorize and to enhance love Muslim to Rasulullah even Rasulullah is wafat (pass away).

Bidaah hasanah give benefit to Muslim however bid'ah dolalah give mudharat (bad) and it against with Islam code of practice and cannot be use in this life. It must be stop likes a virus or disease and cannot be practice as a Muslim.

## RESULT AND FINDING

Table 1. List of Mosque

No	Mosque Name	Location
1	Masjid Al-Islah	Alor Mengkudu
2	Masjid Al-Rahman	Mergong
3	Masjid Al-Bukhary	Alor Malai
4	Masjid Al-Irfan	Jalan Langgar
5	Masjid Al-Aziz	Tanjung Bendahara
6	Masjid Al-Ghufran	Akar Peluru
7	Masjid Zahir	Alor Setar City
8	Masjid Al-Salam	Tambak Bunga

9	Masjid Al-Huda	Teluk Kechai
10	Masjid Tunku Abdul Rahman Putera	Kuala Kedah
11	Masjid Mohd Iskandar Mas Tempawan	Jalan Datuk Kumbar
12	Masjid Tuan Hussain	Titi Gajah Kepala Batas
13	Masjid Tunku Intan Safinaz	Anak Bukit
14	Masjid Syed Ahmad Bukhary	Pantai Johor
15	Masjid Alor Merah	Pumpong
16	Masjid Sultanah Bahiyah	Jalan Sultanah
17	Masjid Jamek Nur Fadzilata	Ibu Pejabat Kontijen Polis Kedah
18	Masjid Al-Ihsan	Seberang Perak
19	Masjid Tandop	Tandop
20	Masjid Kampung Kebun Pinang	Kampung Kebun Pinang

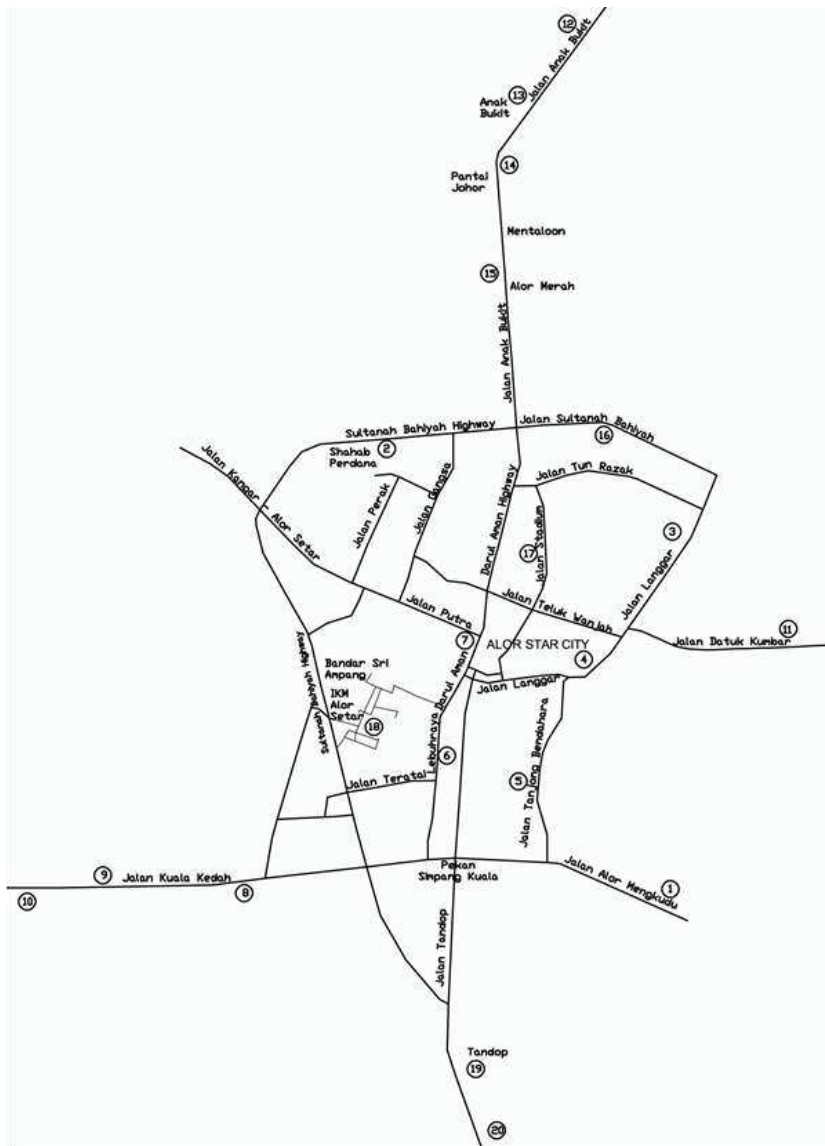


Fig. 11. Location Plan

Table 2. Entrance Direction and Width

Mosque	Entrance Direction	Entrance Width (mm)
1	from front	1070
2	from left side	690
3	from front	640
4	from front	690
5	from front	930
6	from back	720
7	from front	820
8	from back	690
9	from front	645
10	from front	880
11	from front	930
12	from front	870
13	from front	850
14	from back	900
15	from front	520
16	from front	1500
17	from left side	600
18	from front	820
19	from left side	630
20	from front	580

## DISCUSSION

In the aspect of entrance direction show that most of the mosque mimbar is enter from front side (parallel to Kiblah Mekah) which is people or jemaah can see movement of imam or khatib into mimbar. Some of the mosque mimbar enter from left side, but the worse mosque mimbar enter from back side which is movement of khatib or imam cannot be seen by jemaah.

## CONCLUSION

From the research has been done and achieve objectives on identify mosque mimbar elements in term of entrance direction.at Kedah Darul Aman. From the research shows that mimbar is important element to the mosque. Mosques perform Jumaat pray, Aidilfitri pray and Aidiladha pray need or require mimbar to deliver the khutbah.

At the same time from the research, every mosque mimbar is difference each other, but general similarity between all mosque mimbar is based on the entrance direction itself. Besides that, there are mosque mimbar is comply with syariat. The aspect of entrance direction can be specified comply with syariat based on research aspect and references.

In term of the entry direction at mosque mimbar show that 70% of the mosque mimbar use entrance from front direction, 15% from left and 15% from back direction. Jemaah cannot see imam or khatib movement as syariat if entrance direction from back direction. Furthermore, from the research show width of the entrance is design with the minimum size of 520mm. Entrance width show that to make easier for khatib or imam into mimbar platform.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Entry direction at mosque mimbar use is from front direction. From the research show that 70% of the mosque mimbar use entrance from front direction, 15% from left and 15% from back direction.

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