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FPHP BULLETIN HOT & TOUR

THE CROSSROADS;
UNVEILING FOOD, TRENDS, & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

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THE CROSSROADS; FOOD, TRENDS, & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



THE UNIQUENESS OF THE 'FLINSTONES' SURAU IN TERENGGANU

BY FADHLINA MAHAT, ARNIEYANTIE ABDUL HADI
(DR.), & RABIATUL ADAWIYAH ABD RAHMAN

An architecture that highlights extraordinary features will surely amaze anyone who looks at its beauty and uniqueness. This time I want to draw your attention to the architectural beauty of a surau that was built completely from the trunks of tembusu trees and old cengal wood that is over 300 years old.

This surau is called Surau Langgar Rindu. Langgar means surau and longing, which means always longing to worship Allah SWT as taught by Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. This surau is located on the main Kuala Terengganu-Merang Road in Kampung Rhu, Tapai in Terengganu. The owner is Mr. Abdul Karim Embong who is 60 years old. He is a poet and an art activist.

I was lucky to have the opportunity to meet the owner of this surau. He welcomed us and told us about the history of this place. The surau was built in March 2014 with an area of 1064 square feet.

The greatness of Encik Abdul Karim, who is affectionately called Pak Su is that he has an artistic soul as he built this surau spontaneously with all his heart without any prior sketch. He even built it with his own two hands by simply nailing and connecting the wood with screws. The Jawi and Khat writings on the wood of the surau are all hand-carved by Encik Abdul Karim. He said that this surau is always visited by anyone passing by, especially travellers who are on their way to their destinations and stop by the surau. I was also on my way to Penarik Beach when I passed by the main road here.

I saw this surau as if it was calling me to turn back to see it up close. I observed this opportunity with my own eyes and admitted that indeed, the architecture of this surau is very different and nothing comparable to it. Mr Abdul Karim said that he did not think that this surau would get a lot of attention.

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As he built this unique surau not to chase popularity, but instead to provide a facility for the local community here as a place to rest and pray. The estimated cost of the entire construction of the surau reached RM100,000 and there is still a lack of funds. However, he is grateful because he received donations from the public and anyone who comes in to donate. Not only that but there are caring and charitable visitors who come from afar simply to deliver donations in the form of wood to be

used for the main building's material.

Even non-Muslim visitors also came to donate for construction and management despite knowing that it is intended for Islamic worship and education. In addition to this surau, he is also building a madrasah study centre close to Langgar Rindu Surau for 50 students to study religion. Thanks to the support from many parties and help from the public including his children, he successfully realised his dream to build this

'he has an artistic soul as he built this surau spontaneously with all his heart without any prior sketch.e'

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beautiful surau. For those who have not visited Surau Langgar Rindu, come and see for yourself the architectural beauty of the surau, and meet the owner. An artistic soul and sincere in perpetuating this surau as a house of worship for all to worship Allah SWT.

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