

VISIT PAHANG YEAR 2017

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ

سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ

وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ

وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَفِي الْأَرْضِ آيَاتٌ لِلْمُوقِنِينَ ﴿٢٠٦﴾ وَفِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ ﴿٢٠٧﴾

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. May we receive forgiveness in this world and the hereafter.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

In Islamic history, adventure or recreation has existed since time immemorial. Muslims have been exploring and wandering out of their districts or states for a variety of purposes such as to conduct business transactions, to look for work, to establish diplomatic relations, to preach, to study and so on.

The Messenger of God himself had travelled extensively during his lifetime. When he was young, the Prophet (pbuh) travelled to Syria to trade goods or merchandise belonging to Sayyidatina Khadijah binti Khuwailid. During his governance, the Prophet (pbuh) encouraged his companions to travel far and wide in order to learn foreign languages such as the Ethiopian, Persian, Hebrew, Roman and other languages. The great scholar, Imam al-Ghazali had learned a lot from his adventures all over the Arab lands including the Hijaz (the holy land of Islam that comprises most of the western part of modern-day Saudi Arabia and is centered on the two holiest Muslim cities—Mecca and Madina), Damascus and Jerusalem. In the history of world civilization, an Islamic leader named Ibn Battuta who came from Morocco, is regarded as the greatest traveller when he ventured into the world for as far as 117,000 kilometres in a span of almost 30 years.

Travelling or excursions is not forbidden in Islam and in fact, it is highly encouraged. In Islam, the main purpose of travelling is to see, to think and to learn. This is based on what Allah the Almighty said in chapter 22 (Surah al-Hajj) verse 46:

أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَتَكُونَ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ يَعْقِلُونَ بِهَا أَوْ آذَانٌ يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا فَإِنَّهَا لَا تَعْمَى الْأَبْصَارُ وَلَكِن تَعْمَى الْقُلُوبُ الَّتِي فِي الصُّدُورِ ﴿٤٦﴾

Which means: *So have they not traveled through the earth and have hearts by which to reason and ears by which to hear? For indeed, it is not eyes that are blinded, but blinded are the hearts which are within the breasts.*

Travelling gives us an opportunity to see the beauty of nature. With a deeper appreciation of the beauty of Almighty the Almighty's creations, our faith and gratitude should be heightened.

Walking, exploring or visiting a place is a learning process that is mentioned many times in the al-Quran. For example in chapter 6(Surah al-An'am) verse 11, Allah the Almighty says:

قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ أَنْظِرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكْذِبِينَ ﴿١١﴾

Which means: *Say, "Travel through the land; then observe how was the end of the deniers."*

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 27(surah al-Naml) verse 69:

قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ ﴿٦٩﴾

Which means: *Say, [O Muhammad], "Travel through the land and observe how was the end of the criminals."*

Imam Shafie once composed a poem that encourages us to travel. Among other things, he wrote a verse that says:

“If the lion does not leave its place, it will not be able to catch its prey. Similarly, if the arrow does not leave its bow, it will not hit its target”.

Indeed, travelling can be an act of worship if we do it in line with islamic law. If it is intertwined with elements of vice, then it is becomes illegal.

### **Dear brothers and sisters**

The state of Pahang has valuable historical relics including Islamic heritage. It is among the earliest states to accept Islam in Malaya. It has multiple inheritance that can be studied closely such as historical artifacts, architecture designs and old

manuscripts. The Civil laws (Hukum Kanun) of Pahang is one example of a valuable heritage. It is evident that the state of Pahang had run Islamic governments and adopted legislations based on sharia. The discovery of an ancient tombstone dated 419 AH or 1028 AD in the Pekan area, proved that Islam was established much earlier in Pahang. This is among the examples of tourism product that could be used to enhance the knowledge tourists who visit Pahang.

### **Dear brothers and sisters**

In conjunction with Visit Malaysia Year 2017, many local and foreign tourists will visit Pahang. As hosts, we should make mosques as one of the locations to visit and ensure that the travel itinerary includes congregational prayers.

Our guests should be welcomed with warm services and smiles. As muslims, we should maintain good manners and honor our guests. The environment and eateries should be kept clean so that our guests would feel comfortable. Prices should be fair and not overly priced. Drivers of public transportation should drive safely to ensure the safety of their passengers.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter (surah al-Mulk) verse 15:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمْ الْأَرْضَ ذُلُولًا فَأَمْشُوا فِي مَنَاكِبِهَا وَكُلُوا مِنْ رِزْقِهِ ۗ وَإِلَيْهِ

النُّشُورُ ﴿١٥﴾

Which means: *It is He who made the earth tame for you - so walk among its slopes and eat of His provision - and to Him is the resurrection.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ  
الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ  
اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،  
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.