

RESPONSIBILITY TO OBEY RULERS

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.

مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلَّهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ؛ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

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

Dear brothers and sisters

Being obedient to the ruler is one of the qualities that must exist in believers. It is compulsory because the ruler as the head is responsible for ensuring that our lives is guided by religion, that a fair life system is in place so that we live in peace and harmony. As mentioned in chapter 4 (surah an-Nisa') verse 59:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ

Which means: *O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.*"

Obedience to Allah the Almighty and His messenger means obedience towards all that He prescribes and avoiding everything that He and His messenger prohibits. Indeed, it will be easy to execute all the ruler's instructions when obedience to the command of Allah the Almighty and his Messenger is embedded in the souls of every Muslim individual.

Obedience to the ruler is a symbol that we have noble characters and we love our country. We will definitely be good citizens if we love our country. We will abstain from evildoings, love and respect each other. People who are obedient to the ruler will abide by the laws of the country, be disciplined, honest and sincere as well as willing to sacrifice for their religion, race and country. They are able to contribute toward the harmony and safety of their country.

Dear brothers and sisters

Being compliant to the ruler means maintaining the sovereignty of the Institution of the Sultanate of Kings who are the rulers and religious leaders of each state. Under this royal institution is the existence of the Islamic Council and

Malay Customs of Pahang (Majlis Agama Islam dan Adat Resam Melayu Pahang) and other states have this kind of institution as well. These Islamic councils are accountable for all religious matters in their respective states. The Shariah Legal Consultative Committee (Fatwas Committee) chaired by the Mufti is responsible for giving advice to the Sultan in religious affairs and Islamic law in the state.

Thus, Muslims in this state ought to refer to the decisions made by this Islamic Committee so as to avoid disagreements among Muslims in this state. The Islamic Council and Malay Customs of Pahang (Majlis Agama Islam dan Adat Resam Melayu Pahang) adheres to the teachings of Ahlul Sunnah Wal Jamaah, followers of the Al-Asyairah Wa Maturidiyyah which holds onto the twenty attributes of Allah as advocated by Imam al-Syafie.

Obedience to His Majesty the Sultan as head of the state is a religious obligation that is mentioned in the *Rukun Negara* as long as it is not contradictory to Islamic law (*syarak*). The Prophet (pbuh) mentioned in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

السَّمْعُ وَالطَّاعَةُ عَلَى الْمَرْءِ الْمُسْلِمِ فِيمَا أَحَبَّ وَكَرِهَ مَا لَمْ يُؤْمَرْ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ فَإِذَا أُمِرَ
بِمَعْصِيَةٍ فَلَا سَمْعَ وَلَا طَاعَةَ

Which means: *It is obligatory upon a Muslim that he should listen (to the ruler appointed over him) and obey him whether he likes it or not, except that he is ordered to do a sinful thing. If he is ordered to do a sinful act, a Muslim should neither listen to him nor should he obey his orders.*

Dear brothers and sisters

In conjunction with the birthday of His Majesty the Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al Mustain Billah, we as the people of the state of Pahang wish His Majesty many blessings and may His Majesty be blessed with *taufik, hidayah, riayah and inayah*, increase faith and piety and excellent health. The Malay muslims in this state have to defend the monarchy system as this system preserves malay customs which creates unity, politeness and morality of the Malays.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 3(surah Ali Imran) verse 26:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمُلْكِ تُؤْتِي الْمُلْكَ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمُلْكَ مِمَّنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِإِذْنِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٢٦﴾

Which means: Say, "O Allah, Owner of Sovereignty, You give sovereignty to whom You will and You take sovereignty away from whom You will. You honor whom You will and You humble whom You will. In Your hand is [all] good. Indeed, You are over all things competent.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ
الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ
اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.