

ENCOURAGING THE PRACTICE OF WAQAF

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ
وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ
سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

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

Dear brothers and sisters,

Spending (*infaq*) our properties on compulsory practices such as zakat and on obligatory practices such as waqaf is highly recommended by Allah the Almighty to His obedient servants. This practice will cleanse our souls from stinginess and helps to develop affection. It is also a sign of our

faith and gratitude to the Almighty. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 8 (surah Al-Anfal) verses 3-4:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ﴿٣﴾ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ حَقًّا
لَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ ﴿٤﴾

Which means: *The ones who establish prayer, and from what We have provided them, they spend. Those are the believers, truly. For them are degrees [of high position] with their Lord and forgiveness and noble provision.*

The best practice of spending (*infaq*) and *waqaf* (endowment made by a Muslim for a religious, educational, or charitable cause) is by giving the most cherished and valued treasure of ours and to others. These acts will be honoured and appreciated by the recipients. It is also an act blessed by Allah the Almighty. Allah says in chapter 3 (surah Ali Imran) verse 92:

لَنْ نَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتَّىٰ تُنْفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ ﴿٩٢﴾ وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِن شَيْءٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٩٣﴾

Which means: *Never will you attain the good [reward] until you spend [in the way of Allah] from that which you love. And whatever you spend- indeed, Allah is Knowing of it.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Waqaf is practised by the Prophet (pbuh) during his lifetime in which he gave away lands for the construction of mosques and date palm orchards for the benefit of Muslims in Madinah. Others who performed waqaf include Saidina Abu Bakar Al Siddiq, Saidina Umar, Saidina Uthman, Saidina Ali and others.

History has proven that waqaf has contributed to the development and prosperity of the ummah and the country. The development of Al-Azhar As-Syarif University, which had been founded and developed from waqaf donated by Muslims since the time of Fatimiyyah Kingdom that ruled in the 5th Hijrah century till now is a testament of the benefits of waqaf. It has benefitted numerous Islamic civilisations and produced millions of Islamic scholars all over the world.

Likewise, the development and welfare of people in the Turkish Ottoman dynasty were the result of wakaf. The construction of schools, hospitals, mosques and public facilities such as roads and irrigation systems were contributed from waqf property during that period of time.

Dear brothers and sisters

The Islamic Religious and Malay Customs of Pahang is the sole keeper of all waqfs for the Pahang state which include movable and immovable properties. Those who wish to contribute to waqaf in monetary form can do so through the Pahang Waqaf Fund for as low as Rm5.00. Waqaf in cash form can be done through salary deduction, at counters of all branches of MUIP or through electronic banking.

Through the Waqaf Fund donated by Muslims in Pahang, the development and welfare of Muslims such as the construction of mosques, suraus, orphanages and educational centers are made possible. In fact, the expansion of student dormitories in Egypt was also made through donations from waqaf funds.

Those who perform waqaf are promised rewards in their lifetime as well as in the hereafter. The Prophet(pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim:

"إِذَا مَاتَ ابْنُ آدَمَ انْقَطَعَ عَمَلُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثَةٍ: صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ

وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ"

Which means: *When a man dies, his good deeds come to an end except three; ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge, and righteous offspring who will pray for him.*

Dear brothers and sisters

Thus, let us revive and practice waqaf in the name of the Islamic Religious Council and the Malay Customs Pahang as the sole keeper of waqf property in the state of Pahang and not in the name of individuals or certain bodies so that the objectives of waqaf is preserved. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 63 (surah al-Munafiqun) verse 10:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَأَنْفِقُوا مِنْ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ فَيَقُولَ رَبِّ لَوْلَا أَخَّرْتَنِي إِلَىٰ

أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ فَأَصَّدَّقَ وَأَكُنْ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿١٠﴾

Which means: *And spend [in the way of Allah] from what We have provided you before death approaches one of you and he says, "My Lord, if only You*

would delay me for a brief term so I would give charity and be among the righteous.

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