

UPHOLDING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE MALAY RULERS

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ اللَّهُ 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 أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَأَيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

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,

Among the blessings that Allah the Almighty has bestowed upon muslims in this country is a peaceful existence under the protection of a fair and compassionate king. Indeed, the strong ties between the king and his people is present from one generation to another. In the malay sultanate, the spread of islam began from the royal institution including the state of Pahang and other states. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 22(surah al-Hajj) verse 41:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

الَّذِينَ إِنْ مَكَانَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا

بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿٤١﴾

Which means: *[And they are] those who, if We give them authority in the land, establish prayer and give zakah and enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong. And to Allah belongs the outcome of [all] matters.*

In accordance with the Federal Constitution and the position of Islam as the religion of the federation, the Pahang Government's Law stipulates that the ruling King of the Government is the Head of Religion for the state. His duties include dealing with matters pertaining to religious affairs, acknowledging the establishment of the Islamic Religious Council of Pahang for the purpose of controlling the administration of Islam, as well as ensuring the development of Islam. This is what is meant as the malay royal institution, which is not only seen as an individual institution but also by its function and role in the country.

Historically, the royal institutions in Pahang had implemented Islamic law through the Statutory law of Pahang before it was abolished by the colonizers. History has also proven the role of the monarchy in protecting this country from the colonization of the portugese and dutch. Besides, the king has always had close ties with the people and received advice from the islamic scholars. For example, the king of Aceh, Sultan Iskandar Thani who originated from Pahang, appointed a great islamic scholar, Syeikh Nuruddin Al-Raniri to be the palace advisor and mufti of the state. He was a highly regarded king for having religious education, respecting the nobility and the people, and upholding justice.

Thus, history has proven that the royal institution has played an important role in upholding Islam and maintaning fairness. Thus, we should respect the ruling monarchy of this state. The Prophet's (pbuh) metioned in a hadith:

السُّلْطَانُ ظِلُّ اللَّهِ فِي الْأَرْضِ، فَمَنْ أَكْرَمَهُ أَكْرَمَهُ اللَّهُ، وَمَنْ أَهَانَهُ أَهَانَهُ اللَّهُ "

Which means: *The Sultan is the shadow of Allah on earth. Whoever honors the sultan, then God will glorify him. Whoever insults the sultan, then God will humiliate him too.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is somewhat unfortunate that there are people who have begun to argue about the importance and continuity of the Malay Rulers institution. Efforts by these individuals, some NGOs and members of certain political parties clearly questioned the integrity and function of the royal institution in a democratic country. Some even predicted when the royal institution in our country will be abolished, while some also deliberately dispute the interests of the palace, both at state level and nationwide. As a result, there are a handful of people who dared to insult the Malay rulers openly in the social media.

Be reminded that the call to respect and uphold the royal institution is not merely intended to glorify the sultan; but it is to champion islam and sovereignty of this country. Look at countries that still retain their monarchy. Their peoples' love for their king and their country is apparent. Therefore, in conjunction with His Majesty, the Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah al-Mustain Billah Ibni al-Marhum Sultan Abu Bakar Riayatuddin al-Muazzam Shah birthday on 24th October, 2018, let us be united in defending the institution of Malay ruler's and continue to advocate for the justice and security of this beloved country. It is true that the king and his people cannot be separated.

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Abu Daud:

إِنَّ مِنْ إِجْلَالِ اللَّهِ إِكْرَامَ ذِي الشَّيْبَةِ الْمُسْلِمِ وَحَامِلِ الْقُرْآنِ غَيْرِ الْعَالِي فِيهِ وَالْجَافِي عَنْهُ
وَإِكْرَامَ ذِي السُّلْطَانِ الْمُقْسِطِ

Which means: "Among the deeds that glorify Allah, is to glorify a gray-haired Muslim, readers of the Qur'an who are not excessive in it and do not abandon it, as well as a just sultan."

In the Book of Ihya ', Imām al-Ghazali stated: "The king and religion are like twin brothers. Religion is the basis, while the sultan is its guardian. Non essential items will be destroyed. The things that have no guardians will be lost. Power and control is incomplete without the sultan ".

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

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمَلِكِ تُؤْتِي الْمَلِكَ مِنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمَلِكَ مِنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ
تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِيدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٣٦﴾

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 الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ
الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ
الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ
الْمُسْتَغْفِرِيْنَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِيْنَ.