

SPECIAL SERMON (KHUTBAH) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BIRTHDAY OF THE SULTAN OF PAHANG

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 عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَآيَايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Beginning this year, July 30 is proclaimed as a public holiday in conjunction with the Sultan of Pahang's Birthday, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah. As Muslims under the jurisdiction of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, who is also the Pahang Sultan, let us together be grateful towards Allah the Almighty for granting us the blessings of Islamic monotheistic faith and a peaceful and prosperous state.

Indeed, the appointment of a man to be a leader is predetermined by Allah the Almighty as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 3 (Surah Ali Imran), verse (ayat)26:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمَلِكِ تُؤْتِي الْمَلِكَ مِنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمَلِكَ مِنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ

مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٣٦﴾

Which means: *Say, 'God, holder of all control, You give control to whoever You will and remove it from whoever You will; You elevate whoever You will and humble whoever You will. All that is good lies in Your hand: You have power over everything.*

In the history of Islamic Civilization, the monarchy has played an important role as a defender of religion. Who does not know Khalifah Umar bin Abdul Aziz of the Umayyad government? Similarly, in the history of Egypt and Palestine, Muslims greatly appreciate Sultan Salahuddin al-Ayubi for his service to bring the Muslims victory over the Crusaders. The same can be seen in some of the Malay Sultanates, including Pahang's, who have played an important role in upholding religion in this beloved state.

For example, during the reign of the late Sultan Abdul Ghafur Mahyudin Shah between 1592 and 1614, the Pahang state was governed under Islamic law. The original manuscript of the Pahang Code of Law, which is still on display in the Pekan State Museum, should be read by all the citizens of this state. Not only did he succeed in implementing syariah-based law, he also invited scholars from Kedah, Perak, Patani and Brunei to discuss efforts to strengthen the Islamic religion in their respective places and ways to create a peaceful state.

In conformity with the Federal Constitution and the position of Islam as the religion of the Federation, the Pahang State constitution stipulates that the Sultan is the Head of Religion for the state. His role is to organize religious affairs through the establishment of the Pahang Religious Council and Malay Customs Council for the purpose of simplifying the administration of Islamic religion, as well as to ease the process of Islamic propagation in the state. This is what is meant by the Malay rulership. The Sultan is not only seen as the individual ruler, but also includes his function and role in the country.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

So as the blessed people of this state, it is our responsibility to show love and affection to the *Sultan* by paying homage and loyalty to him. Let us ponder on Allah the Almighty's reminder as stated in the Quran in Chapter 4 (Surah Al-Nisa'), verse (*ayat*)59:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ

Which means: *You who believe, obey God and the Messenger, and those in authority among you. If you are in dispute over any matter, refer it to God and the Messenger, if you truly believe in God and the Last Day: that is better and fairer in the end.*

Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him [pbuh]) also reminded us in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

السَّمْعُ وَالطَّاعَةُ عَلَى الْمَرْءِ الْمُسْلِمِ فِيمَا أَحَبَّ وَكَرِهَ مَا لَمْ يُؤْمَرْ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ فَإِذَا أُمرَ

بِمَعْصِيَةٍ فَلَا سَمْعَ وَلَا طَاعَةَ

Which means: *The Prophet (pbuh) said, "A Muslim has to listen to and obey (the order of his ruler) whether he likes it or not, as long as his orders are not in disobedience (to Allah), but if an act of disobedience (to Allah) is imposed one should not listen to it or obey it. (See Hadith No. 203, Vol. 4)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Additionally, as subjects to the Ruler, Muslims must also play a role to bring prosperity to the state. Let us pray for His Majesty the Great Yang Dipertuan Agung, to receive guidance from Allah the Almighty, as well as good advice from pious people, to lead the state of Pahang in particular, as well as the whole country, towards the pleasure of Allah the Almighty.

As narrated by Imam al-Bukhari, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: "None of the caliphs was appointed unless he had two close friends (*bitonah*). The first friend encourages

him to do good, while the second one influences him to do bad things. And the preserved one is that whom God preserved."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In conjunction with this special birthday, let us be grateful and pray that Allah the Almighty will bless our Sultan and grant him strength to remain steadfast in ruling this country according to Islamic law. May Allah make the Sultan among those who are mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 22 (Surah Al-Hajj), verse (ayat) 41:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

الَّذِينَ إِنْ مَكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

وَنَهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالْأُمُورِ ﴿٤١﴾

Which means: *Those who, when We establish them (give them authority) in the land, keep up the prayer, pay the prescribed alms, command what is right, and forbid what is wrong: God controls the outcome of all events.*

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar (Allah is Great, Allah is Great, Allah is Great).

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعِنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي
هَذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ،
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ