

## RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SUSTENANCE IN ISLAM

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

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

وَأَشْهَدُ 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 أَوْصِيَكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ 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 Him in this life and the hereafter.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Islam requires people to be responsible in carrying out trust. One of the most important responsibilities for some Muslims is being the head of the family. It is obligatory for a person to provide for his family after declaring the marriage contract; what more after being blessed with offsprings.

It is very unfortunate, when some husbands or fathers, who should be responsible as the head of the family, have been negligent in providing sustenance leading to divorce. This matter is indeed very worrying, because based on the Pahang Syariah Justice Department records, the number of divorced couples is increasing every year, with an average involving almost 4,000 couples a year. Most of the causes of divorce are due to the negligence of the husband or father to provide sustenance. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 4 (surah al-Nisa') verse 34:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

الرِّجَالُ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ بِمَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَبِمَا أَنْفَقُوا مِنْ  
أَمْوَالِهِمْ ...

**Which means:** *“Men are the caretakers of women, as men have been provisioned by Allah over women and tasked with supporting them financially...”*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Among the types of compulsory sustenance for the husband on his wife and children is to provide food, drink, shelter and daily clothing for them. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 (surah al-Baqarah) verse 233:

... وَعَلَى الْمَوْلُودِ لَهُ رِزْقُهُنَّ وَكِسْوَتُهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ لَا تُكَلَّفُ نَفْسٌ إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا لَا تُضَارَّ وَالِدَةٌ بِوَلَدِهَا وَلَا مَوْلُودٌ لَهُ بِوَالِدَيْهِ وَعَلَى الْوَارِثِ مِثْلُ ذَلِكَ ۗ

**Which means:** *“...The child’s father will provide reasonable maintenance and clothing for the mother during that period. No one will be charged with more than they can bear. No mother or father should be made to suffer for their child. The father’s heirs are under the same obligation...”*

Unfortunately, there are a some husbands or fathers who care about spending only on themselves. There are those who prioritize shopping for luxury and designer clothes for themselves, but let their wives and children dress in old, tight and worn out clothes. Some spend a lot of money eating out with friends, but are too calculative when buying food for their own children.

In a hadith by Abu Daud, Mu’awiyah al-Qushairi once asked the Prophet (pbuh) regarding rights of wife on her husband. The Prophet (pbuh) replied:

أَنْ تُطْعِمَهَا إِذَا طَعِمْتَ وَتَكْسُوَهَا إِذَا اكْتَسَيْتَ - أَوْ اكْتَسَبْتَ - وَلَا تَضْرِبَ  
الْوَجْهَ وَلَا تُقَبِّحَ وَلَا تَهْجُرَ إِلَّا فِي الْبَيْتِ

**Which means:** *“Give them food what you have for yourself, and clothe them by which you clothe yourself, and do not beat them, and do not revile them. If you fear the recalcitrance abandon them in their beds.”*

This commandment of the Prophet (pbuh) is very important for all husbands and heads of families to live by; that is not to be stingy in providing household sustenance, in addition to maintaining the honor and dignity of the wife in public.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Let us all carry out our responsibilities as head of our families seriously by providing the best sustenance to our dependents. If tested with divorce, the head of the family cannot run away from the responsibility of providing for his children. It is prohibited (*haram*), and one will bear a heavy burden in the afterlife.

For Muslims in the state of Pahang, the Family Support Division under the Pahang Syariah Justice Department provides assistance to deal with the problem of neglect of alimony by the husband or father. Get support and help through this service.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

فَعَاتِ ذَا الْقُرْبَىٰ حَقَّهُ وَالْمِسْكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ لِّلَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ  
وَجْهَ اللَّهِ <sup>ط</sup> وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾

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