

The Birthday of His Majesty the Sultan of Pahang  
29 Zulhijjah 1443H/July 29, 2022

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  
عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ 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,**

We are approaching the 1444 *Hijri* New Year. On the same day, Pahang citizens will celebrate the birthday of the Sultan of Pahang (who is also currently the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong*) His Majesty Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah. Hopefully, these two auspicious events will bring blessings and prosperity to all of us in the State of Pahang. Allah the Almighty said in the Quran in Chapter 4 (*Surah An-Nisa*) verse (*ayat*) 59:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ

**Which means:** “You who believe, obey Allah and the Messenger, and those in authority among you...”

Let us all pray that Allah the Almighty gives guidance, intelligence, prosperity and righteousness to His Majesty our *Tuanku Sultan* in leading Malaysia and the State of Pahang.

Imam Nawawi said: “Praying for goodness and guidance for our leaders so that they can rule justly is something that is highly encouraged”.

Similarly, Imam al-Baihaqi said: “Give advice and pray for the leaders so that they do good and pious deeds and are fair when deciding on punishment. When the leaders are good, then the people will be good. Be careful, do not pray for their disgrace or curse them, because that will affect a Muslim community the same way. Instead, ask Allah’s forgiveness for the leaders so that they renounce bad deeds and, hopefully, disasters will be avoided.”

It is not wrong for us to pray for them in our sermons. As citizens, we must always respect our leaders. Imam Al-Qurthubi (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

“People are always virtuous as long as they respect the *Sultan* (leader) and the religious scholars. If they respect these two, Allah will give good to their worldly life and in the hereafter. And if they insult the leaders and scholars, then Allah will ruin their lives in this world and the hereafter.”

The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) ordered us to respect our leaders as narrated by Imam al-Baihaqi:

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

**Which means:** *“The Sultan is the reflection of Allah on earth, whoever glorifies him, Allah will glorify him and whoever insults him, then Allah will humiliate him.”*

Let us pray that His Majesty the Sultan of Pahang will always be in the care of Allah the Almighty and surrounded by scholars who give him good advice so His Majesty will be blessed by Allah the Almighty.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

In conjunction with the beginning of Muharram, we are encouraged to continuously improve ourselves (*hijrah*) in our daily lives. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari which means: “The emigrant (*muhajir*) is the one who abandons what Allah has forbidden.”

Let us improve our lives in all aspects including our worship, our family relationships, and our contribution to building a united, strong, and successful Muslim community. We must abandon all despicable habits and practices so that Allah the Almighty will be pleased with all of us. Let us be mindful of Allah the Almighty’s reminder as stated in the Quran in Chapter 9 (*Surah At-Tawbah*) verse (*ayat*) 20:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ  
وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ أَعْظَمُ دَرَجَةً عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ ﴿٢٠﴾

**Which means:** “Those who believe, who migrated and strove hard in Allah’s way with their possessions and their persons, are in Allah’s eyes much higher in rank; it is they who will triumph;”

بَارِكِ 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 وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي  
وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،  
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.