

THE BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY, THE SULTAN OF PAHANG
26 JULY 2024 / 20 MUHARRAM 1446H

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْوِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ 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,

The 30th of July 2024 is the birthday of His Majesty the Sultan of Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah. His Majesty is the sixth Sultan of Pahang who ascended the throne of the Pahang State monarchy system through the lineage of Sultan Ahmad Al-Muadzam Shah who was the first Sultan of Pahang.

The monarchy system of government in Islam started from the time of the Umayyads when the Umayyad caliphate was formed as a continuation of the rule of *Al-Khulafa' Ar-Rasyidin* (The rightly guided successors). This royal system continued during the Abbasid period until the Ottoman period. In the context of the Malay sultanate, the King has played an important role in the spread of Islam to the people such as the spread of Islam under the Malacca Sultanate. The same goes for

the state of Pahang and other states. The pinnacle of the strengthening of Islam in Pahang was during the reign of the 12th Sultan of Pahang - Melaka, Sultan Abdul Ghafur Muhiyuddin Shah, who for the first time drafted the Pahang Code of Law which was consistent with Islamic law following the Shafie school of jurisprudence.

The Sultan is the supreme ruler, assisted by advisers who are appointed by His Majesty while the people give full loyalty to the Sultan to maintain prosperity and peace in the state. Obeying the orders of the Sultan or leader is the responsibility of every citizen. In fact, it is an obligation in Islam, as Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 4 (*Surah An-Nisa* ') verse (*ayat*) 59:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولَى الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى
اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ ءَآخِرِ ؕ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا ٥٩

Which means: *“O believers! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. Should you disagree on anything, then refer it to Allah and His Messenger, if you truly believe in Allah and the Last Day. This is the best and fairest resolution.”*

As Muslims, we must obey all the commands of Allah and the Messenger and maintain loyalty and obedience to the Sultan and the just rulers as long as we are not ordered to commit disobedience to Allah. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim:

عَلَى الْمَرْءِ الْمُسْلِمِ السَّمْعُ وَالطَّاعَةُ فِيمَا أَحَبَّ وَكَرِهَ، إِلَّا أَنْ يُؤْمَرَ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ، فَإِنْ أُمِرَ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ فَلَا سَمْعَ وَلَا
طَّاعَةَ.

Which means: *“It is obligatory upon a Muslim that he should listen (to the ruler appointed over him) and obey him whether he likes it or not, except that he is ordered to do a sinful thing. If he is ordered to do a sinful act, a Muslim should neither listen to him nor should he obey his orders.”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our country’s constitution, the ruling Sultan functions as the head of religion in the state. His Majesty is responsible for safeguarding the sovereignty of the Islamic religion and at the same time does not prevent other religions from being practiced, especially in the context of our pluralistic society.

In the context of the state of Pahang, His Majesty the Sultan of Pahang, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri’ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah is a sultan who is concerned about matters related to religion, education, welfare and the affairs of his subjects. In terms of education, His Majesty established the *Maahad Tahfiz Negeri Pahang* which has recently recorded outstanding success. His Majesty also cares about the growth and development of Sultan Ahmad Shah Pahang Islamic University (UnIPSAS), UCYP University, religious schools, private *Maahad Tahfiz* and traditional religious schools.

In order to maintain the people’s welfare, His Majesty has established the Al-Sultan Abdullah Foundation (YASA) which, among other things, builds houses for the poor known as *Rumah Rakyat Al-Sultan Abdullah* (RURASA) and supports a hemodialysis center for less fortunate patients.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the spiritual aspect, His Majesty has ordered the Muslims in Pahang to perform obligatory prayers in congregation. His Majesty always participates in the ‘*Subuh Seperti Jumaat*’ programs.

His Majesty also ordered that Muslims should always maintain their faith by sticking to the creed of *Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah*, and be wary of various deviant and doubtful teachings. The Pahang Mufti Department has listed the names of the groups on the department’s official website.

His Majesty calls for the people to be united by putting aside political differences. His Majesty orders the strengthening of the education system to ensure the success of children. In addition, His Majesty also emphasized the use of *Jawi* (Malay in Arabic script) writing so that this heritage will not be lost/ forgotten.

During His Majesty’s coronation as Sultan of Pahang in 2019, His Majesty quoted the words of Caliphe Abu Bakar As-Siddiq which read/as follows:

“If I am correct, please support me. If I am wrong, please correct me. Being truthful is a trust. Lying is treachery. Obey me as long as I obey Allah and His Messenger. If I disobey Allah and His Messenger, then there is no obedience for me.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We pray that our state and nation will always prosper and peaceful under the rule of the just Malay Sultans. May His Majesty, as the defender of Islam in the State of Pahang, always be given *taufiq* (success), *hidayah* (guidance) and inspiration from Allah the Almighty in carrying out his duties as a ruler of this State. May His Majesty's reign be filled with justice and piety to Allah the Almighty.

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمُلْكِ تُؤْتِي الْمُلْكَ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمُلْكَ مِمَّنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُنْزِلُ مَنْ تَشَاءُ طِبِّدِكَ
الْخَيْرُ طِبِّدِكَ إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ٢٦

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْفُرْعَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي 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 الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.