



PAHANG STATE SERMON TEXT

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MAIN PRACTICES IN THE MONTH OF RAMADAN

07 MARCH 2025 | 06 RAMADAN 1446H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ: يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ
مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ خَيْرُ مَنْ صَلَّى وَصَامَ وَقَامَ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ 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 Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us be grateful for the blessings of Allah the Almighty for being given the opportunity to be in this blessed month of Ramadan 1446H. Let us celebrate this blessed month as the Prophet (peace and blessings of

Allah be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Muslim:

مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ، إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا، غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Which means: *"Whoever observes fasts during the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven."*

Based on this hadith, Imam Ibnu Hajar al-Asqalani said that what is meant by faith is to believe in the obligation of fasting, while the meaning of hope is to ask for reward from Allah the Almighty regardless of the difficulty and length of the day.

Among the practices that are highly recommended when entering the month of Ramadan is:

First: Performing the Sunnah Terawih Prayer in congregation.

There is a hadith that tells about the reward for those who perform Terawih prayers. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in the narration of Imam Tirmidhi, An Nasa'i and Ibn Majah:

مَنْ قَامَ مَعَ الْإِمَامِ حَتَّى يَنْصَرِفَ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ قِيَامَ لَيْلَةٍ

Which means: *"Whoever prays in Ramadan with the imam until he finishes, Allah will record for him as if he spent the whole night in prayer."*

Based on this hadith, it is encouraged to perform terawih prayers in congregation. Therefore, according to the final view of the Syafie school of thought, performing the 20-rakaat terawih prayer in congregation is more beneficial as quoted from Imam Nawawi Rahimahullah in the book al-Majmuk. This is in accordance with the narration of Sayyidina Umar al-Khattab Radiallahu Anhu who gathered Muslims to perform the 20-rakaat terawih prayer led by Sayyidina Ubai Bin Ka'ab Radiallahu Anhu without any objection from any of the companions. This practice of the Salaf is what has been inherited to this day.

Second: Increasing reading of the Quran

As is widely known, the specialty of the month of Ramadan is due to the revelation of the Quran, which is a source of guidance and instruction for all mankind.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 (surah al-Baqarah) verse 185:

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ

Which means: *Ramadan is the month in which the Quran was revealed as a guide for humanity with clear proofs of guidance and the decisive authority.*”

Third: Giving charity

The month of Ramadan is also a month where we are encouraged to increase our charity as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was the most generous person. The peak of his generosity was during the month of Ramadan.

Therefore, give a lot of charity during the month of Ramadan, such as hosting people breaking their fast, donating to the mosque fund, the poor, the elderly, parents, family members, orphans, and others.

Fourth: Performing Qiamullail and I'tikaf

There are many narrations that explain the virtues of performing night prayers and performing I'tikaf in the mosque, including the narration of Imam al-Bukhari from Saidina Ibn Umar Radiallahu Anhuma where he

said: *"The Messenger of Allah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam used to perform I'tikaf during the last ten days of Ramadan."*

Dear brothers and sisters,

While we are dutiful to Allah the Almighty in this blessed month, keep ourselves away from doing bad and useless things as stated by the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam in a hadith narrated by Imam Ibnu Majah from Abu Hurairah Radiallahu Anhu which means: *"There are people who fast and get nothing from their fast except hunger, and there are those who pray and get nothing from their prayer but a sleepless night."*

Among the reasons that make a person's fast wasteful is that he does not abandon words and actions that are heinous or false, and he does not abandon careless and indecent words. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Bukhari from Abu Hurairah Radiallahu Anhu which means:

"Whoever does not give up false statements (i.e. telling lies), and evil deeds, and speaking bad words to others, Allah is not in need of his (fasting) leaving his food and drink."

Dear brothers and sisters,

The fact is that Ramadan should also be a month to educate Muslims to be moderate and not wasteful, as His Majesty the Sultan of Pahang advised every year when Ramadan approaches.

SWCorp revealed that in Ramadan 2024, domestic waste collection in the country increased to 300 metric tonnes per day. It can be avoided if people know how to store food properly and purchase wisely, which can prevent waste. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 17 (surah al-Isra') verse 27:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
إِنَّ الْمُبَذِّرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيَاطِينِ ۖ وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ كَفُورًا

Which means: *"Surely the wasteful are like brothers to the devils. And the Devil is ever ungrateful to his Lord."*

In conclusion, let us always be enthusiastic and steadfast in increasing our worship throughout the month of Ramadan, especially in performing the Sunnah Terawih prayers in congregation, increasing our recitation of the Quran, giving charity, hosting people to break their fast, enlivening our night worship and practicing I'tikaf during the last ten nights. At the same time, avoid unbeneficial and wasteful actions.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي
وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِلَعَالِهِمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ 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 الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.