

PAHANG'S HOL DAY
22 MAY 2026 / 5 DZULHIJAH 1447H

الْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَغِيثُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللّٰهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، إِنِّقُوا اللّٰهَ أَوْصِيَكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللّٰهِ، 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,

Let us be grateful for the blessings of faith (iman), and for being Muslims. Today, we are at the beginning of the month of *Dzulhijjah*, during which most of Allah's invited guests (the pilgrims) in the city of Mecca are making final preparations before their *wuquf* in Arafah. Let us pray that they are given the strength and health to pursue an accepted *Hajj*.

Meanwhile in Malaysia today, 22nd May 2026, we commemorate a day known as *Hol* Day. In fact, today is a public holiday for the State of Pahang. *Hol* Day was first introduced in 1974 to commemorate the anniversary of the passing of the fourth Sultan of Pahang, the late Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Muadzam Shah.

In 2020, *Hol* Day was changed to 22nd May, in conjunction with the anniversary of the death of the late Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar, the fifth Sultan of Pahang.

Perhaps some residents of Pahang do not know the meaning and lessons behind *Hol* Day. There is an opinion that the word ‘*Hol*’ comes from the Arabic word ‘*Haul*’ (حَوْل) which means a year or anniversary. In Malay, Arab and palace traditions, ‘*Hol*’ is a ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of the death of a king or someone who is highly respected such as a community figure, leader or scholar. Usually this day is filled with the recitation of *Surah Yasin*, *tahlil*, supplications and stories of the individual’s contributions to the community.

Hol Day is not just a day of remembrance. It is a time for reflection and to remember the contributions of past leaders who are no longer with us. They planted the seeds of justice, goodness and piety in administration, and became just kings for the people of various races and religions, in line with the command of Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 5 (*Surah Al-Maidah*) Verse (ayat) 8:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ لِلّٰهِ شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ ۚ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَاٰنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ ءَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا ۚ اَعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ
لِلتَّقْوَىٰ ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللّٰهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

Which means: “*You who believe, be steadfast in your devotion to Allah and bear witness impartially: do not let hatred of others lead you away from justice, but adhere to justice, for that is closer to awareness of Allah. Be mindful of Allah: Allah is well aware of all that you do.*”

The king is the head of the religion and the protector of the people of this country. The people also play a role in maintaining unity and loyalty to the king. Scholars encourage Muslims to pray specifically for just rulers. Fudhail bin 'Iyyad once stated,:

Which means: *“If I had one supplication to be answered, I would make it for no one but the ruler.” Someone asked him, “Why is that?” Fudhail replied, “If the ruler is righteous, it will lead to the righteousness of the country and the people.”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Apart from that, *Hol* Day also teaches Muslims to emulate one of the *sunnah* practices, which was recommended by the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]), but was taken lightly by his followers, namely remembering death. None of us will live forever. All of us will face death.

No matter what our status is in this world, whether old or young, when death comes, it will not be brought forward or delayed even for a moment. So heed the advice of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to always remember death. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ibnu Majah:

Which means: *“A young man asked the Messenger of Allah (PBUH), ‘Which of them (the believers) is wisest?’ He said: ‘The one who remembers death the most and is best in preparing for it. Those are the wisest.’”*

From today's *khutbah* (sermon), it can be concluded that:

First, *Hol* Day is a symbolic tribute to the king who has made many contributions to the religion and this beloved state.

Second, this celebration serves as a reminder to us about the importance of being virtuous and making contributions during our lifetime, living with consciousness of God, and striving to unite people regardless of background.

Third, contemplate death often because it keeps us from committing sins.

Concluding the *khutbah* in conjunction with the celebration of *Hol* Day, let us together pray for forgiveness and blessings for the late Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar, the fifth Sultan of Pahang, for his services to the religion, race, state and nation.

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْهُمْ أُمَمَةً يَهْتَدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا لَمَّا صَبَرُوا وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يُوقِنُونَ ٢

Which means: “*When they became steadfast and believed firmly in Our messages, We raised leaders among them, guiding them according to Our command.*” (Quran [As-Sajdah] 32:24)

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