



SERMON TEXT
STATE OF PAHANG
AUGUST 2026

STAY AWAY FROM GAMBLING IN COMPETITIONS

7 AUGUST 2026 / 23 SAFAR 1448H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness towards Allah the Almighty by carrying out all His commands and abandoning all His prohibitions. May we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this world and the Hereafter.

Dear blessed brothers and sisters,

Today's sermon will discuss the issue of gambling in competitions. Islam encourages its followers to engage in sports, recreation, and healthy contests because they help build physical strength, mental fitness, and the spirit of brotherhood. However, Islam forbids any form of competition tainted with gambling and monetary betting, which lead to enmity, addiction, and social harm. Allah the Almighty has strictly prohibited gambling, as He declares in chapter 5 (Surah al-Maidah) verse 90:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلُمُ رَجَسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ﴾

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلُمُ رَجَسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

Which means: *“O believers! Intoxicants, gambling, idols, and drawing lots for decisions are all evil of Satan’s handiwork. So shun them so you may be successful,”*

This verse shows that gambling is a cursed act from the practices of Satan. Besides being forbidden, it is also classified as a major sin and commanded to be completely avoided because it destroys human life. In Arabic, gambling is known as *maisir* or *qimar*. Gambling games are also defined as games played with pebbles or dice, or any form of betting. In the Kuwaiti Fiqh Encyclopedia (Mausu’ah Fiqhiah Kuwaitiah), gambling is described as something in which people wager or compete, and they end up either gaining profit or suffering loss.

The decision of the Muzakarah of the National Islamic Council (MKI) stipulates that:

Firstly, competitions or contests that contain elements of betting, chance, exploitation, or entry fees that serve as the source of prizes are prohibited and fall under gambling (*maisir*).

Secondly, the 64th Muzakarah of the National Islamic Council (2004) and the 1st Meeting of the Pahang State Shariah Law Consultative Committee (2009) stated that prize-winning SMS quiz contests and similar activities are declared prohibited, as they fall under the meaning of gambling. This is because they contain elements of betting, ambiguity, and reliance on luck.

Thirdly, regarding competitions that require participation fees, the muftis in the Muzakarah explained that if the participants’ fees are collected and then given to

the winner as a prize, this constitutes *qimar* (betting/gambling). This is because the losing participants bear a loss, while the winner gains benefit from the money of the other participants.

Fourth, on the other hand, competitions are permissible if the prizes are sponsored by a third party who has no connection with the competition, and the participation fees charged are only used for management costs or participant facilities, not as prize money for the winners.

Dear beloved brothers and sisters,

Nowadays, besides gambling in gambling centers and lottery numbers, gambling elements are often inserted into various competitions and entertainment activities. There are competitions that require participants to pay a certain amount as a fee, and then the money collected is given to the winner. If all participants stake their money and the winner gains from the money collected, then this is a form of gambling which is prohibited by Shariah. This can occur in various competitions such as football, badminton, golf, fishing, and others.

Similarly, predicting the results of sports matches, betting in video games, paid guessing contests, slot machines, and the many forms of online betting that are increasingly widespread. Although they may appear as entertainment, in reality they contain elements of taking other people's wealth unlawfully, which is not permitted by Shariah. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 (Surah al-Baqarah) verse 188: *“And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly.”*

Gambling causes a person to gain profit without genuine effort, while the one who loses suffers loss. It contradicts the principles of justice and blessings promoted by Islam. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessing be upon him) also reminded his followers to avoid all forms of gambling. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim:

وَمَنْ قَالَ لِصَاحِبِهِ: تَعَالَ أَقَامِرْكَ، فَلْيَتَصَدَّقْ

Which means: *“And whoever says to his companions, 'Come let me gamble' with you, then he must give something in charity.”*

This hadith shows how seriously Islam views the act of gambling to the extent that merely inviting someone to gamble requires a person to repent and give charity as a means of expiation for the wrongdoing.

Some begin with small bets and just for fun. However, due to the normalization of gambling, they eventually become trapped in gambling addiction leading to debt, family breakdown, and crime. Allah the Almighty explains the harmful effects of gambling in chapter 5 (Surah al-Maidah) verse 91, which means: *“Satan’s plan is to stir up hostility and hatred between you with intoxicants and gambling and to prevent you from remembering Allah and praying. Will you not then abstain?”*

We must educate our family members, children, and society to avoid the culture of betting in sports, games, and competitions.

Dear beloved brothers and sisters,

The conclusion of today's sermon is:

Firstly, gambling is forbidden and a major sin.

Secondly, we must ensure that every competition we participate in is free from elements of betting and gambling.

Thirdly, competition organizers must ensure that their events are kept far away from gambling elements.

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إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ يُوقِعَ بَيْنَكُمُ الْعَدَاةَ وَالْبَغْضَاءَ فِي الْحَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ وَيَصُدَّكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَعَنِ الصَّلَاةِ
فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُنْتَهُونَ ٩١

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.