

THE OBLIGATION OF MUSLIMS TO CHOOSE HALAL PRODUCTS

11 Jamadil Akhir 1443H | January 14, 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 عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا 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,

Let us ponder upon the words of Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) verse (*ayat*) 168:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ كُلُّوْا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ

لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ ﴿١٦٨﴾

Which means: “People, eat what is good and lawful from the earth, and do not follow Satan’s footsteps, for he is your sworn enemy.”

This verse reminds us all that Muslims are required to seek what is *halal* (permissible in Islam). Finding what is *halal* is an obligation. Muslims are required to find *halal* jobs, and food and drink that are truly *halal* and good, that is, pure, clean, and nutritious. Similarly, we should find and choose restaurants, eateries, and products that are guaranteed *halal* and clean.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Products in the market are likely to be mixed with elements that are forbidden in Islam. For example, things that include alcohol, pork, blood, and ingredients that are impure in Islam.

To avoid consuming and using products that are forbidden in Islam, Muslims should look for products that have been certified *halal* by the State Islamic Religious Council or the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM). Products that have been recognized as *halal* have been inspected and tested before being marketed. Therefore, they are guaranteed *halal* and are safe to be eaten or used. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

إِنَّ الْحَلَالَ بَيْنَ وَإِنَّ الْحَرَامَ بَيْنَ وَبَيْنَهُمَا أُمُورٌ مُشْتَبِهَاتٌ لَا يَعْلَمُهُنَّ
كَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ ...

Which means: “The lawful is clear and the unlawful is clear, and between that are matters that are doubtful (not clear); many of the people do not know whether it is lawful or unlawful.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To develop the economy of Muslims, buying *halal* products that have been produced and marketed by Muslims should be prioritized. This helps in developing the supply chain of Muslim products in our country.

The Buy Muslim First (BMF) slogan is not meant to boycott non-Muslim products but to create awareness among the Muslims to prioritize buying Muslim products to benefit fellow Muslims. When the Muslim traders become more successful, they can pay *zakat* (giving alms) and give charity for the good of Muslims. This should be a lifelong practice instead of seasonal.

Allah the Almighty commands us to help each other for the benefit of Muslims, as He mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 5 (*Surah Al-Maidah*) verse (*ayat*) 2:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۖ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ﴿٢﴾

Which means: “...help one another to do what is right and good; do not help one another towards sin and hostility. Be mindful of Allah, for His punishment is severe.”

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ 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 .