

HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN OF PAHANG'S BIRTHDAY

28 JULY 2023 | 10 MUHARRAM 1445H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّهِ 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،

فَيَا 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 forgiven in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the history of the Malay Peninsula, the monarchy system has existed in most states for hundreds of years. The king is the supreme ruler, assisted by responsible officials. The people give full loyalty to the king for the prosperity and peace of the state.

Obedying the commands of the king or leader is the responsibility of every citizen. In fact, it is an obligation in Islam as stated by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 4 (*Surah An-Nisa*) verse (*ayat*) 59:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِيَ الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن تَنَزَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ
الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا ﴿٥٩﴾

Which means: “*You who believe, obey Allah and the Messenger, and those in authority among you. If you are in dispute over any matter, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you truly believe in Allah and the Last Day: that is better and fairer in the end.*”

As Muslims, we must obey all the commands of Allah and the Messenger and maintain our loyalty and obedience to the king and any just ruler as long as they do not order us to commit disobedience to Allah the Almighty. 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

أُمرَ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ، فَلَا سَمْعَ وَلَا طَاعَةَ

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,

According to our country’s constitution, the ruling king functions as the head of religion in a state. His Majesty is responsible for maintaining the sovereignty of Islam and at the same time does not prevent other religions from being practiced, especially in the context of a multireligious society like Malaysia.

In Islamic religious affairs, a ruling king needs to work closely with the scholars. According to As-Sheikh Mustafa Al-Khin in the book *Al-Fiqh Al-Manhajiy*, a king needs to get advice from scholars or *muftis* first so that there is no confusion among the people in deciding a matter.

In the context of the state of Pahang, His Majesty the King, Sultan of Pahang, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri’ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Mustain Billah is a conscientious and

patient king in making important decisions. This is in accordance with the words of Allah the Almighty in Chapter 32 (*Surah As-Sajdah*) verse (*ayat*) 24:

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْهُمْ أُمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا لَمَّا صَبَرُوا وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يُوقِنُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾

Which means: *“When they became steadfast and believed firmly in Our messages, We raised leaders among them, guiding them according to Our command.”*

His Majesty plays a significant role in safeguarding the Islamic religion to ensure the unity of his subjects. For example, His Majesty often orders the people in this country to pray in congregation at the mosque. His Majesty also orders that Muslims safeguard their beliefs and be alert to various deviant threats. His Majesty often calls for the people to be united by putting aside political beliefs. His Majesty also ordered that the use of *Jawi* scripts be reinvigorated so that this heritage is not simply lost. When faced with bitter moments and disasters such as Covid-19, His Majesty was one of the earliest leaders who ordered that *hajat* prayers (the prayer of need) be held in mosques and that *qunut nazilah* (a special supplication recited during obligatory prayers during calamities) be recited during the *fajr* (the dawn obligatory prayer) and Friday prayers to pray for the well-being of the people.

During His Majesty's proclamation as Sultan of Pahang in 2019, His Majesty said by quoting the words of Caliph Abu Bakar *Al-Siddiq* which read:

“If I’m right, help me. If I’m wrong, correct me. Truthfulness is 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 be blessed with prosperity and peace under the rule of the just Malay kings. May His Majesty always be given divine help and guidance from Allah the Almighty in carrying out his duties as a ruler in this country.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمَلِكِ تُؤْتِي الْمُلْكَ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمُلْكَ مِمَّنْ تَشَاءُ

وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُنزِلُ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿١٦﴾

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنْ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.