Experts

Hari Raya Aidilfitri: Celebrating Faith, Gratitude, and Compassion

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Blessings and salutations to the Prophet Muhammad PBUH, his families, companions, and all those who follow his teachings to the day of judgment. First and foremost, hope it is not too late to wish ??????? ????????? 'Blessed Ramadhan' to UMPSA staff and students. May Allah reward us with ??????????? so that we may express our gratitude for the blessing of guidance Allah has blessed us all with.

As the first half of Semester I Session 2023/2024 winds down and the auspicious occasion of Aidilfitri approaches, we all find ourselves eagerly anticipating a well-deserved break. The first five weeks have been filled with trials, challenges, and opportunities for personal growth. Soon, it is time for us to return home to celebrate this festive season and reunite with our families and loved ones. Where Ramadan teaches us self-restraint, and self-reflection, to reset and re-establish productive and meaningful habits, Aidilfitri is a time to rejoice for the global Muslim community. For our students, this mid-semester break not only marks a time for celebration and reunion but also provides an opportunity for reflection and gratitude.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of preparations for the festivities like dressing up in your brand new baju raya and taking OOTDs (outfit of the day) photos or recording GRWMs (get ready with me) TikTok videos, let us not forget the essence of this occasion – spending quality time with our families and relatives. In my family, it was always celebrated with the community; checking in on those at the local masjid with families, neighbours, and distant relatives, just after the prayers. Aidilfitri in Malaysia is also synonymous with open houses, where Muslims open their doors to friends from all races and religions to jointly celebrate in the spirit of unity and harmony. It has always been a unique time that encapsulates the feeling of love and unity.

However, how do we celebrate such an important day when so much suffering and injustice is happening? As Muslims, we must extend compassion to our brothers and sisters in Palestine who are facing hardship and adversity, even as we revel in our blessings. Whether through charitable donations, raising awareness, or offering duas, every act of kindness can make a difference in the lives of others. We can also take inspiration from celebrity Alif Satar's initiative of encouraging Muslims to perform the Subuh prayer in congregations at the mosques, to foster religious devotion. This collective effort serves as a reminder of the importance of communal worship, especially in times of uncertainty and hardship.

Those who are fortunate enough to receive *duit raya* or engage in side businesses like Ramadhan Bazaar have the opportunity to support Palestinians by donating to organisations like Cinta Gaza Malaysia led by Nadir al-Nuri. Directing a portion of these earnings towards humanitarian efforts in Palestine can make a meaningful impact on the lives of those affected. Donate to starving children, famished families, amputees in need of prosthetic limbs, and refugees in need of water, food, and medical aid. By embodying the spirit of generousity and compassion, UMPSA can stand in solidarity

with Palestinians, offering both financial support and heartfelt prayers during this challenging time.

As the mid-semester break draws to a close, students need to return to their studies with renewed faith and determination. While the break offers a chance for relaxation and rejuvenation, it is crucial not to lose sight of academic goals and responsibilities. Let this time with family and reflection serve as a source of inspiration, driving you to excel academically and spiritually in the remaining weeks of the semester. As you embark on your journey home to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri and enjoy the mid-semester break, let us remember the true essence of this occasion – a time for family, unity, and compassion. ???? ???????? ‘Eid Mubarak’ to you and your family and may this mid-semester break be a source of blessings and joy for all!



Amy Zulaikha Mohd Ali

Writer is a Senior Language Teacher, Centre for Modern Languages, Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA).
E-mail: amyzulaikha@umpsa.edu.my

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