

SESSION 1 FOOD HABITS AND HALAL CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Presentation 2

Food Habits, Islamic Law and Halal Certification System

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Abstract

Food habits is influenced by many factors . The factors are personal, social, psychological, marketing and environmental, economic/income, cultural, as well as religious. Many religious certainly has dietary concepts, including Islam. Islamic teaching does not only regulate about food but it is more than that, it is a way of life for its adherence. So, Islamic dietary concept is only part of it.

In general everything is permitted for human's use and benefit. Nothing is forbidden except what is prohibited either by a verse of the Qur'an or an authentic and explicit Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). This rule Shari'ah (Islamic law) brings freedom for people to eat and drink anything they like as long as it is not haram (prohibited).

In turn, If we talk about food in Islam, there are some terminologies that not only apply for food but also for other actions or deeds namely Halal (lawful), haram (unlawful), sunnah (encouraged) and makrooh (discouraged) and subhat/mashbooh (suspected).

Therefore, personally, if a muslim will eat food, the food that is consumed will be categorized into these 5 groups of status. There are some food is considered as halal food, but also it could be a haram, sunnah, makrooh, or subhat food

For a fresh food like fruit such as banana, apple, melon, watermelon, they are categorized as halal food. But if the fruits will be processed into processed food or drink like apple juice, the status will be subhat (suspected). Why? Because, we have to know what material or processing aid that used in the processing step.

That is why, it is necessary, some groups of people involved, in order to determine the clearness of status wether this processed food will be categorized as halal food or haram food. The process of determining the status of halalness is called as halal certification. In Indonesia, halal certification is done and organized by MUI. There are two groups of people involved in the halal certification. The first group is people with technical expertise. They know about processing of food technically. So, if the group audits a company that applies halal certification, they will observe whether the company meet the halal requirement technically. The first group will make a report to another group or the second group. The second group is people with expertise of Islamic law. The second group is also called ulama or Islamic scholars. The second group will make a judgement whether some products are halal based on the first group report of audit.

Keywords: Muslim, Food, Halal Certification