

SPEECH OF
JUSTICE KHALIL-UR-REHMAN KHAN
(Chairman Halal R&D Cell, PAMCO)

At Concluding Session of
The 2nd International Conference & Expo on Halal industry
16th – 17th January, 2012 at PC Hotel, Lahore

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره ونؤمن به ونتوكل عليه
ونعوذ بالله من شرور انفسنا ومن سيئات اعمالنا من يهده الله فلا مضل
له ومن يضلله فلا هادي له ونشهد ان لا اله الا الله وحده لا شريك له
ونشهد ان سيدنا ومولانا محمداً عبده ورسوله صلى الله تعالى عليه
وعلى اله واصحابه وبارك وسلم. اما بعد فاعوذ بالله من الشيطان
الرجيم-

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

سورة البقرة

Sura #2 / Verse # 172-173 / Madina

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُلُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِلَّهِ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ
تَعْبُدُونَ V# 172

“O you, who have believed, eat from the good things which we have provided for you and be grateful to Allah if it is [indeed] Him that you worship”.

The honorable Minister Agriculture, Secretary Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Indonesian Ambassador, Distinguished International and National delegates and Ladies & Gentlemen.

This is indeed a privilege for me to welcome you all for gracing us and participating in the deliberations of the 2nd International Conference & Expo on Halal Industry organized by the Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Government of the Punjab and Punjab Agriculture & Meat Company in collaboration with Halal Research Council, Lahore.

This galaxy of eminent Scholars, Experts and Authorities in the subject of Halal Food and Products has come at the utmost opportune time for Pakistan as the Province of Punjab is taking an initiative for introducing Pakistan as “Halal Hub” for the region by opening new horizons and avenues for enduring strategic partnership across the border. We are conscious that we are late in taking this initiative as Malaysia started Halal Program in early 1980 with passage of a law on the subject, while Indonesia commenced Halal Program in the year 1990. Even Thailand, Singapore and some other countries have Government mandate to import Halal Certified Products only. We now in Punjab are determined not only to make and develop the Halal Industry but also to excel in the field by laying down Standards for regulating monitoring and specializing the Halal Products and also prescribe the measures for ensuring supply of Halal Food and other products which meet and comply with the principles laid down by Shariah. The Scholars, Academicians, Experts in hygiene and dietary sciences should provide guidance so that the Injunctions of Islam contained in Holy Quran and Sunnah are complied with and followed in letter and spirit.

The verse of the Holy Quran recited by me as well as other verses mandate for the Muslim to take only Halal and Tayyab Food, which is not only earned by him through legitimate means but the item itself is Tayyab (Pakeeza) and the one which not declared haram. One of the traditions of the Holy Prophet is that he (PBUH) made mention of a person who during a long journey facing hardship and utter despair raised his both hands in prayer to Allah and said O! God, O! God but his eating and drinking is Haram, his clothing is Haram and he has been bread on Haram Maal (Money). How his prayer can be acceptable. (See Muslim, Katabuz Zakat, Baab “Qabool Sadqa” 1015). In another tradition Holy Prophet reportedly stated that with a morsel of Haram food in his belly, prayer of such a person is not accepted for 40 days. Thus the means to earn livelihood and the food items and the other products procured for use, both, should be Halal. This is of high importance for Muslims as well as non-Muslims as Halal Food is considered by them as a symbol of quality and wholesomeness.

Global Halal certified products market has become trillion dollar industry, out of which global Halal meat market is worth \$440 billion, with prospects of further growth at rapid pace. Food & Beverages contributes 45%, Pharmaceutical: 22%, Halal meat: 16% (\$440 billion), Cosmetic: 10%, Gelatin 7%. Pakistan’s share is very negligible around 0.26% (\$115 million). Pakistan being a genuine gateway to 470 million Muslims holds a great potential for global Halal Industry. This is the right time to encourage international alliances by facilitating entrepreneurs to evaluate Pakistan as an emerging market for Halal Products & Services.

Pakistan has a big domestic consumer market together with potential Food Hub especially for Global Halal Markets. The demand for healthy & safe agro-livestock food products is increasing rapidly with increasing population growth rate & socio-economic conditions.

Halal is not a Mystical Religious Ritual, it is science of well-being. Halal has become a global issue, which now plays a role in government policies, multinational corporate strategies, SME development, Research & Development and Marketing. Halal has a major impact in the food sector and is equally important for financing, manufacturing, processing, retail, restaurant, traveling and hospitality sector. With a stake in commercial sectors worldwide, Halal Development has become a significant contributor to all facets of economic growth.

Globalization of food trade and increased consumer awareness regarding food safety standards has given impetus to the global demand for Halal, Healthy and Hygienic food, Products & Service.

One of the steps taken by the Government of the Punjab to achieve these objectives is the establishment of Punjab Agricultural and Meat Company a nonprofit R&D entity with a mission to formalize the meat industry of Pakistan by interventions at every level of the meat supply chain that is production, processing and marketing under compliance regime of international food safety standards. One of the projects inaugurated last month is the Lahore Meat Processing Complex a project jointly undertaken by the Punjab Agriculture and Meat Company (PAMCO) and Mashhad Meat Industrial Complex (Iran). This Meat-Processing Complex has International Standard Slaughterhouse and allied processing industries, which would enable export of Halal meat from Punjab and ensure provision of hygienic meat to local population.

This meat-processing complex has the capacity of slaughtering 1000 big animals (beef) and 12000 small animals (mutton) per day. This complex will also house refrigeration, chilling, blast freezing and cold storage facilities. This Complex fitted with machinery imported from Turkey and Netherlands has been completed in a record time of 11 months.

The 2nd intervention on behalf of the Government should be to provide a rational strategy with doable action plan through formulation of an institutional arrangement or road map for establishment of a **Punjab Halal Development Authority** for coordinating overall development of Halal Industry and performing the following functions namely:-

1. Maintain a continuing working relationship and coordinate with the other Provincial Authorities so as to facilitate and promote Halal Certification.
2. To develop and issue National Halal Standards, Auditing and Certification Procedure and System.
3. To implement the accreditation process and procedures for the appointment of Inspection Bodies.
4. To Accredite and revoke accreditation of Inspection Bodies.
5. To issue Halal Certificate, certifying that the products listed meet Islamic guidelines laid down by the Shariah.
6. To issue a Halal Certificate certifying that the Plant, production facility, food establishment, Slaughter House, abattoir or the establishment handling food has been approved to produce, distribute or market Halal Food or the items listed herein.
7. Maintain a Register of all the approved companies to be called the Provincial Register of the approved Halal Companies.

8. To cancel, revoke or suspend the Halal Certificate, after giving due notice and hearing to the licensee if at any time after issuing the Certificate the Authority is satisfied either *sou moto*, or on a reference made to it in this behalf by any person or otherwise that the license granted by it has been obtained by misrepresentation or suppression of material facts or there is an adverse material change in conditions in which the Halal Products is being processed, manufactured or made.
9. To prescribe the rules & procedure for issuing the Halal Certification.
10. To prescribe Halal Logo and authorize use of the Halal Logo by the Halal Certificate Holders.
11. To do and perform functions and exercise powers as the Provincial Government may direct.

Obviously for establishment of the proposed “**Punjab Halal Development Authority**” an appropriate law will have to be enacted by the provincial legislature. The draft law will be presented by the Halal Research & Development Cell of the Punjab Agricultural & Meat Company (PAMCO) already notified by the Department. This Cell has been enjoined to prescribe Standard and processes Halal Certification of the following amongst other products:

- Meat
- Dairy
- Fruit and Vegetable
- Grains and Oil Seeds
- Ingredient Sector
- Animal by Products Industry (Consumer Care Products – Industrial, Chemical)
- Pharmaceuticals

Sir, by taking these measures you will provide sound basis for development of Pakistan as Halal Hub and open new vistas for entering the global Halal Market while serving the big domestic consumer market. The demand for healthy and safe agro-livestock food products is increasing rapidly with increasing population growth rate and socio-economic conditions. This will also open up new economic opportunities and employment for our youth and traders.

The other issue needing attention is standardization and harmonization of rules, regulations standards pertaining to Halal Certification and the matters concerning therewith e.g. prescription of lawful animals, ritual slaughtering guidelines status of ingredients and food additives etc. We have the example AAOFI Bahrain for providing standardization in the field of Islamic Banking and Finance by laying down Accounting and Auditing Standards as well as Shariah Standards. We are aware that OIC has taken some initiative in this regard but much more needs to be done. We propose that a Committee of experts of related fields representing Muslim Countries should be constituted to take up the task of harmonizing and standardizing the regulations and standards pertaining to the relevant matters. We in Pakistan have compiled a Manual which can be made basis for approval after deliberations of proposed Committee.

In the end I again express gratitude the distinguish delegates and guests for honoring us by their participation in the Conference. We will be extremely indebted to the Hon’ble Chief Minister Punjab for his support that he will not only approve the proposed measures but will also take necessary steps towards their implementation.

Let us pray to Almighty Allah to guide us and shower his blessings enabling us to follow his Ordains and comply with his commands. Amin!

Pakistan Zindabad