



Maintenance officials eating from meals to be served to plane passengers without obtaining permission

Fatwa no. 16799

Q: My question has three points: First, sometimes we go to a restaurant but we find that the food is bad or so low in quality that we can not eat it. Is it permissible for us to eat from the plane's meals after obtaining permission from the director (supervisor) of the department where the food is? It may be important to mention that the director is mostly Christian or Buddhist and we know in advance that the food is owned by the company,

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not by them. We also know that the internal regulations of the company do not permit eating from such departments and this is the reason why the restaurant is allocated for the employees. Second, in some departments the work load is very heavy because of the large number of planes or flights. In such cases we can not postpone our work because we have to abide by departure times. Usually we finish work by the end of nine working hours without having a one-hour break which is allocated for having food. Mostly the company does not pay us for working during the break hour. This compels us to eat from the flights' food whether we obtain permission to do so or not. Third, is having food which is allocated for planes after obtaining the permission of the supervisor or director on duty tantamount to eating Haram (prohibited) food or receiving Haram money that is mentioned in Hadith?

A: If the reality is exactly as what is mentioned in the question, you have started your work at the company according to a contract. Thus, you only have the rights that are mentioned in the contract subject to its Shar`y (Islamically lawful) conditions including securing the meal which is mentioned in the question.

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On the other hand, it is impermissible that you violate the contract by eating the meals which are allocated for planes unless you obtain the permission of the decision-makers amongst the officials of your company. We advise you to refer to the latter and explain the matter to them in order to reach suitable solutions. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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