



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL SERMON IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW YEAR 2016AD STRENGTHENING OUR RESOLUTION 1 January 2016AD / 20 Rabiulawwal 1437H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: right;">أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ:</p>
3	<p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">فِيمَا رَحِمَةً مِنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ ﴿١٥٩﴾</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ،</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَأَيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ، وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى، وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لِعَلَّكُمْ تَقْلِحُونَ.</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Each passing moment is proof of our increase in age as we live our life on Earth. Fortunate indeed for those who use their time for charitable purposes, and unfortunate for those who waste their time by engaging in vices and wrongdoings. Let us make the effort to increase our conviction in</p>



	Allah SWT, because only our conviction shall save us from destruction and collapse.
8	In conjunction with the first day of the New Year 2016, on this blessed Friday, the <i>khatib</i> would like to invite fellow Muslims to ponder upon the sermon entitled “ <i>Strengthening Our Resolution</i> ”.
9	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, With the arrival of the new year, people from every corner of the world will be excited to celebrate it in various ways. Some would congregate to wait at midnight to usher in the new year, while others would celebrate by singing and dancing from dusk to dawn. Others meanwhile, would usher in the new year with a more moderate and Islamic approach by performing <i>Hajat</i> prayers, <i>Salawat</i> and religious talks.
10	They perform all these because, to them, the arrival of the new year is a significant event in their lives. The question is, are these celebrations the only priority? In reality, people tend to ignore what they really need in their lives with the every arrival of a new year. What is the resolution that we should realize this year?
11	A ‘resolution’ means a strong ambition and determination to achieve what we want. Someone without a strong determination or resolution will not achieve what he dreams of. But, we should also remember, as Believers, we should leave the eventual fulfilment of the resolution in the hands of Allah SWT.
12	As stated at the end of Surah Al Imran, verse 159, which was read out at the start of this sermon: <i>Which means:</i> “ <i>And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him].</i> ”
13	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, We tend to make a lot of resolutions and aims with the arrival of the new year. Some aim to stop smoking for health reasons. Others are resolute to



	stop committing vices because they want to lead a life that would be pleasing to Allah SWT, while others aim to improve their work performance to gain recognition and bonus rewards from their employers.
14	In reality, not all of us are really committed towards realizing our resolutions. There are some who are determined at the start, but, as time passes and due to certain factors, they become less determined in fulfilling their proudly stated resolutions. This attitude is akin to the Malay saying “ <i>Seperti Melepaskan Batok di Tangga</i> ”, which means a person is not doing something wholeheartedly. Among the reasons these resolutions are not achieved are because:
15	First: The person has no patience to try hard to fulfil the resolutions they make. A lot of us want instant results without working hard. For example, in order to get rich quick and to live a wealthy lifestyle, there are individuals who would invest their whole life savings in dubious business schemes. As a result, their hard earned life savings disappear in a blink of an eye. Remember, to regret earlier is better than to regret later.
16	Second: Temptations of lust. Without a doubt, lust is the biggest hindrance to anyone aiming to be successful in whatever they do. This is because, lust is within everyone and it will always invite us to leave whatever is good. The influence of a hidden and invisible enemy is more dangerous than a visible enemy. As a reminder to all of us in facing the dangers of lust.
17	Allah SWT says in Surah Yusuf, verse 53:  <i>Which means</i> “And I do not acquit myself. Indeed the soul is a persistent enjoiner of evil, except those upon which my Lord has mercy. Indeed, my Lord is forgiving and merciful”
18	Third: The absence of planning. Usually, those who do not have a



	<p>systematic plan will fail to achieve their aims. They do things without any convincing direction. They feel that the most important thing is the effort itself, without any thought to planning. This mentality is borne out of ego and arrogance. But remember, if we fail to plan, we are planning to fail.</p>
19	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>After the fall of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, Turkey was ruled by secular governments for more than 80 years. In spite of that, efforts to uphold Islam has been made continuously. Let the success of the leaders of that country in upholding Islam be the inspiration for us to achieve what we aim for.</p>
20	<p>Even if it takes time, but with careful planning, effort and faith, <i>In sya Allah</i>, we can achieve our goals. Let us all take the following steps to realise the resolutions that we have made:</p>
21	<p>First: Be patient in our efforts. Realise that success or achievements do not happen without patience. It needs a high degree of patience and continuous effort before the success that will make us happy, arrives. On top of that, every success achieved after numerous challenges and setbacks is much sweeter.</p>
22	<p>Ponder upon this hadith of Rasulullah SAW, narrated by Imam Ahmad, based on a report by Anas bin Malik RA:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">" النَّصْرُ مَعَ الصَّبْرِ، وَالْفَرَجُ مَعَ الْكُرْبِ، وَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا "</p> <p>Which means: "Victory will come with patience, relief will come with affliction and hardship will come with ease"</p>
23	<p>Second: Prepare a detailed plan. No success or victory in any battle comes without strategy and planning. Just look at our country's past leaders who have built Malaysia into a country respected in the eyes of the world.</p>



24	The success story of our country has become an example for other Islamic nations to follow. We owe all of that to our past leaders who had put in place clear planning and vision as guides for our future leaders, in their effort to develop the nation.
25	Third: <i>Istiqamah</i> , or being consistent in the efforts to achieve what is aimed for. <i>Istiqamah</i> is the most important criteria to those who are Believers. <i>Istiqamah</i> will continuously assist us in realizing our dreams. There is no point in being Believers if, when told to constantly try, the <i>istiqamah</i> disappears from us.
26	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>To conclude the sermon, I would like to invite all fellow Muslims here today to ponder on the following as guidance for all of us:</p> <p>First: As Believers, we should realise that resolutions made and cultivated should ultimately be determined by Allah SWT.</p> <p>Second: Be wary of the temptation of lust that would want to continuously bring us towards evil, because lust is capable of thwarting any resolution we have made.</p> <p>Third: Any resolution can be successfully achieved if there is patience, <i>istiqamah</i> and proper planning.</p>
27	<p>Ponder upon the words of Allah, in Surah Ar-Ra'd, verse 11:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>لَهُ مَعْقَبَاتٌ مِّنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ. مِّنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ ۗ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَّالٍ</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p>



28	<p>Which means: “For each one are successive Angels before and behind him who protect him by the decree of Allah. Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. And when Allah intends for a people ill, there is no repelling it. And there is not for them besides him any patron”</p>
29	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>