

**APPRECIATE THE BLESSINGS OF INDEPENDENCE**

IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL DAY 2017

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إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا
 وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُرْشِدًا.
 أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،
 اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.
 أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ
 تَفْلِحُونَ.

قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْقُرَىءِ ءَامَنُوا وَأَتَّقُوا لَفَنَحْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ بَرَكَتٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَكِن

كَذَّبُوا فَأَخَذْنَاهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿١٦﴾

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

On this auspicious day, let us together seek to increase the level of our conviction in Allah SWT. We may not be able to gain conviction if we do not execute all the commands and instructions of Allah SWT, and abandon all that He has prohibited and disallowed. May we be raised among the righteous ones on the Day of Judgement.

On 31st of August, 60 years ago, our country was declared an independent nation. Therefore, in line with the spirit of this independence



month, today's sermon will discuss a topic entitled, "**Appreciate the Blessings of Independence**".

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Independence is one of the greatest gifts bestowed by Allah SWT to His servants. Through it, a nation is free to practice its cultural traditions. With the achievement of independence, society is free from threats and fears. The economy can be expanded, education can be enhanced, politics can be broadened, the society is protected and, more importantly, citizens would be able to form their own identity and stand proud with other nations of the world.

We can say that a nation's independence is the key through which its people are able to receive other blessings from Allah SWT. Therefore, we need to appreciate and be thankful for it. It is also actually a test from Allah SWT, who would like to see how we utilise it. This was stated by Allah SWT in surah al-Nahl, verse 75:

ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا عَبْدًا مَمْلُوكًا لَا يَقْدِرُ عَلَى شَيْءٍ وَمَن رَزَقْنَاهُ مِنَّا رِزْقًا حَسَنًا فَهُوَ يُنْفِقُ مِنْهُ سِرًّا وَجَهْرًا هَلْ يَسْتَوُونَ^ط الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ^ج بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ^{٧٥}

Which means: "Allah sets forth the Parable (of two men: one) a slave under the dominion of another; He has no power of any sort; and (the other) a man on whom We have bestowed goodly favours from Ourselves, and he spends thereof (freely), privately and publicly: are the two equal? (By no means;) praise be to Allah. But most of them understand not."

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,



The real meaning of independence can be heard in the story of Prophet Ibrahim AS in Al-Qur'an Al-Karim, where it was told how he tried to free himself from the misguided lives of his people. This was recorded by Allah SWT in surah al-An'am, verses 78 and 79:

فَلَمَّا رَأَى السَّمْسَ بَارِغَةً قَالَ هَذَا رَبِّي هَذَا أَكْبَرُ فَلَمَّا أَفَلَتْ قَالَ يَاقَوْمِ إِنِّي بَرِيءٌ
مِمَّا تُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٧٨﴾ إِنِّي وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِي فَطَرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ حَنِيفًا
وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴿٧٩﴾

Which means: *"And when he saw the sun rising, he said, "This is my Lord; this is greater." But when it set, he said, "O my people, indeed I am free from what you associate with Allah. Indeed, I have turned my face toward He who created the heavens and the earth, inclining toward truth, and I am not of those who associate others with Allah."*

Based on that verse, the person whose soul is free from the subjugation of idolatry or polytheism (*syirik*) is truly an independent human being. Therefore, it does not necessarily mean that previous generations who were colonized by a foreign nation were colonised spiritually. Conversely, today's generation who seem to be independent is not necessarily spiritually independent. We must be ever vigilant and cautious to ensure the independence we enjoy now continues, be it for physical independence or for spiritual independence. What we want even more is to be free from the punishment of Allah SWT in the hereafter.

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

The independence we enjoy today was not achieved as easy as reading historical textbooks, not as simple as visiting museums, and not as brief



as watching historical films and documentaries. In fact, the road to independence was paved with the sacrifice of thousands of lives, with the blood of fighters and over a long period of time. The effort was all taken with the aim of ensuring that we, as the generation of today, can enjoy and live a better and more prosperous life.

Indeed, it is true: In Islam, being free and independent is considered the right of every human being. But, it is not an absolute license for us as servants of Allah SWT to violate limits set by Him. Therefore, the task of creating a more meaningful independence is challenging and needs to be carried out as best as possible.

Among the things we can do to have a more meaningful independence is to be grateful to Allah SWT by doing more charitable deeds for Him, striving through the available opportunities to increase our devotion and conviction in Allah SWT, building a generation of the faithful, the pious and the righteous as inheritors of the nation. Let us realise that this is the opportunity our forefathers had previously dreamt of before independence. Do not lay to waste the blessings that Allah SWT has endowed upon us by committing negative and immoral deeds. Imam al-Bukhari RH recorded a hadith narrated by Ibn Abbas RA, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:

نِعْمَتَانِ مَغْبُونٌ فِيهِمَا كَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ الصِّحَّةُ وَالْفَرَاغُ

Which means: *"The two blessings most often wasted by most people are health and leisure time."*

Additionally, as successors of previous generations, we must thank freedom fighters of the past. They started the struggle, and carried it on



until they achieved their goals. Therefore, their services and sacrifices should be remembered and justifiably rewarded. At the same time, we must also pray to Allah SWT to reward them accordingly for their deeds and efforts.

As caring citizens, we must strive to eliminate ignorance of history among the present generation. This is so that the application of knowledge and love for the nation is balanced and well reflected in their lives. This factor is also very important in the development of our country, so that it is in line with the ideals of past freedom fighters, and the enjoyment of this independence is continuous, blessed and graced by Allah SWT.

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

To conclude the sermon today, the *khatib* would like to present some key takeaways for us to ponder upon:

First: Our independence is a great favour and blessing bestowed by Allah SWT.

Second: We should be grateful for the blessings of independence, and fill it with meaningful deeds. The demand for a meaningful independence is a great responsibility that must be shared.

Third: Appreciate the gift of our nation's independence by protecting its citizens from being involved in negative and immoral matters.

As stated by Allah SWT in Surah al-Naml, verse 40:



أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قَالَ الَّذِي عِنْدَهُ عِلْمٌ مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ أَنَا آتِيكَ بِهِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَرْتَدَّ إِلَيْكَ طَرْفُكَ فَلَمَّا رآه مُسْتَقِرًّا
عِنْدَهُ قَالَ هَذَا مِن فَضْلِ رَبِّي لِيَبْلُوَنِي ؕ أَشْكُرَ أَمْ أَكْفُرُ وَمَن شَكَرَ فَإِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ ؕ وَمَن

كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ رَبِّي غَنِيٌّ كَرِيمٌ ﴿٤٠﴾

Which means: "Said one who had knowledge from the Scriptures, "I will bring it to you before your glance returns to you." And when [Solomon] saw it placed before him, he said, "This is from the favor of my Lord to test me whether I will be grateful or ungrateful. And whoever is grateful - his gratitude is only for [the benefit of] himself. And whoever is ungrateful - then indeed, my Lord is Free of need and Generous."

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ
الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي 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.

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَبِالصَّالِحِينَ، وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ، وَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ
وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى إِمَامِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ، وَقُدُوةِ النَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ
بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ الْمُبِينُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ
سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، صَادِقُ الْوَعْدِ الْأَمِينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ، وَحَافِظُوا عَلَى الطَّاعَةِ
وَحُضُورِ الْجُمُعَةِ مَعَ الْمُصَلِّينِ.

The *Mimbar* would like to request for the congregation who are here today to use the donation boxes provided around the mosque to donate from their pockets, so that we can continue organising activities that would utilise the benefit of this House of Allah SWT. May such donations be counted by Allah SWT as part of the charity given by us throughout our life.

وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى أَمْرُهُ بِأَمْرٍ بَدَأَ فِيهِ بِنَفْسِهِ وَثَبَّتْ بِمَلَائِكَتِهِ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ.
فَقَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى مُخْبِرًا وَأَمْرًا بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ :

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا

تَسْلِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ
عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ فِي الْعَالَمِينَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْأَرْبَعَةِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيَّ،
وَعَنْ أَزْوَاجِ نَبِيِّنَا الْمُطَهَّرَاتِ وَعَنْ أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ وَقَرَابَتِهِ وَسَائِرِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ وَمَنْ
تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. وَارْضَ عَنَّا بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.

وَأَيُّدِ اللَّهِمَّ بِالتَّوْفِيقِ وَالْهُدَايَةِ مُدَبِّرِ هَذِهِ الْبِلَادِ الْإِسْلَامِيَّةِ مَلِكِنَا كَبَاوَه دُولِي

يَعْمَهَا مَلِيَا سَرِي قُدُوكِ بَكِينِدَا يَغِ دَفَرْتَوَانِ اكَوْغِ ك-15 سُلْطَانِ مُحَمَّدِ ك-5.

اللَّهُمَّ أَطْلُ عُمُرَهُ مُصْلِحًا لِلْمُؤَدِّبِينَ وَالرَّعِيَّةِ وَالْبِلَادِ، وَبَلِّغْ مَقَاصِدَهُ لِطَرِيقِ الْهُدَى
وَالرَّشَادِ. اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ مَالِيزِيَا وَسَائِرِ بِلَادِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ طَيْبَةً آمِنَةً مُطْمَئِنَّةً رَّخِيَةً، يَا
رُؤُوفُ بِالْعِبَادِ.

اللَّهُمَّ أَعِزِّ الْإِسْلَامَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ فِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ وَحِينٍ، وَأَنْصُرْ مَنْ نَصَرَ الدِّينَ،
وَاخْذُلْ مَنْ خَذَلَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَأَعْلِ كَلِمَتَكَ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ، وَدَمِّرْ أَعْدَاءَكَ أَعْدَاءَ
الدِّينِ.

O, Allah, You are The One Lord Who is the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, we express our gratitude to You for all the gifts and blessings which you have bestowed upon us, provide to us and to our leaders



direction and guidance, strengthen the solidarity among us, unite our hearts for Your sake, ease all our affairs, multiply our beneficial knowledge, cultivate our souls with good morals, lead us to the route that You would approve, reinforce our faith while facing all forms of trials and tribulations from You, preserve the peace, harmony and safety of our country Malaysia and of our states and territories, namely the Federal Territories. Eschew us from any form of upheaval, disunity and chaos.

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ.
رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ،

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَايَ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ
وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿١٠﴾
فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَىٰ نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ
يُعْطِكُمْ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.