



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">LOSING HOPE DESTROYS LIVES (22 January 2016 / 12 Rabiul Akhir 1437H)</p>
2	الحمد لله القائل:
3	<p style="text-align: right;">أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم</p> <p style="text-align: center;">يَبْنِيْ اَذْهَبُوْا فَتَحَسَّسُوْا مِنْ يُوسُفَ وَاخِيْهِ وَلَا تَأْتِسُوْا مِنْ رَّوْحِ اللّٰهِ اِنَّهُ لَا يَأْتِسُ مِنْ رَّوْحِ اللّٰهِ اِلَّا الْكٰفِرُوْنَ ﴿٨٧﴾</p>
4	أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ،
5	اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْدِّينِ.
6	أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ، وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى، وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.
7	<p>FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH,</p> <p>I call upon myself and all who are gathered here this Friday, who are all much beloved by Allah SWT, let us all increase our efforts to have conviction in Allah SWT by performing all His commands and by staying away from all that He has prohibited. May we be among those who are with faith and perform virtuous deeds.</p>
8	The Mimbar today would like to deliver a sermon entitled: “LOSING HOPE DESTROYS LIVES” .



9	<p>FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH,</p> <p>Since our independence, Malaysia has had among the best record for economic performance in Asia. Our National Gross Domestic Product (KDNK) has grown at an average rate of six point five percent (6.5%) per year for almost 50 years. Our nation's economy, which was traditionally based on natural resources, has now ventured into other sectors such as scientific, tourism, commerce and medical tourism.</p>
10	<p>As a result of very good economic management, Malaysia is today placed at the highest level based on the appraisal of various international rating agencies, which puts us among countries with a very high competitive advantage.</p>
11	<p>This stellar achievement is, among others, due to the skilful management of our border control agencies, especially the Royal Malaysia Customs Department and other national security and defence agencies which are directly involved in safeguarding the inflow and outflow of goods.</p>
12	<p>But, coming into this new year, efforts to maintain such stellar performance becomes even more challenging, especially when there is the issue of armed threats by organised terrorist and criminals of the militant IS group, also known as the Daesh terrorists, which is gaining more followers and harder to stem its growth. It is becoming more worrying for us, for it may be dangerous to our citizens and the global community. The phenomenon would also result in foreign investors getting more concerned and the possible rise in the number of our Muslim youngsters being involved in the wars in Syria and Iraq in the name of "<i>jihad</i>" and "<i>martyrdom</i>".</p>
13	<p>FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH,</p> <p>The radical understanding brought by the IS group and the false ideology it brings is a threat to our nation. Many of the individuals who are influenced by such understanding are usually those who feel frustrated and angry with the current situation in our country, or even the world, to the point that it drives them to join terrorist groups. Besides that, the different level of idealism among some of them towards the changes brought by certain</p>



	policies undertaken by certain parties also contribute towards such reaction.
14	Based on the <i>mimbar's</i> observations, losing hope and being frustrated has brought quite a lot of negative impact upon the peace, prosperity and development of a nation. Islam has never thought its followers to lose hope so quickly, because such attitude would only cause a person to feel that he is a total failure in attaining certain dreams and ambitions, and in fact makes him to never want to try again. Because of that, it weakens and destroys the person's inner strength, and is a poison to a man's being.
15	Allah SWT explains in Surah Yusuf verse 87: <p style="text-align: center;">يَبْنِيْ اٰذْهَبُوْا فَتَحَسَّسُوْا مِنْ يُوسُفَ وَاٰخِيْهِ وَلَا تَاْيَسُوْا مِنْ رَّوْحِ اللّٰهِ اِنَّهٗ لَا يٰٓاَيْسُ مِنْ رَّوْحِ اللّٰهِ اِلَّا الْكٰفِرُوْنَ ﴿٨٧﴾</p> <p>Which means: "O, my sons! Go you and enquire about Yusuf and his brother, and never give up hope of Allah's Soothing Mercy: truly no one despairs of Allah's Soothing Mercy, except those who have no faith."</p>
16	FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH, Those who do not lose hope are those who prove that they have very high self confidence. Therefore, Islam demands for its followers to have confidence and belief in their own self and should never lose hope in gaining the blessings and guidance of Allah SWT. As a servant of Allah SWT, it becomes an obligation for us to strive and attempt to find a solution to the problems that we face.
17	Such is the manifestation of a person with faith who has a very close relationship with Allah SWT and is bestowed with blessings. He would never lose hope of gaining the blessings of Allah SWT, even when faced with great challenges, for he has peace within his heart due to his belief in Allah SWT.
18	In such context, many do not realise that the way a person thinks would determine how his life would turn out. For example, if he thinks like a



	coward, then such a representation in his mind would influence his whole potential and make him into a coward. Therefore, fear and losing hope of gaining the blessings of Allah SWT shall only lead to the inability and the inconfidence of those who may face challenges in the future.
19	<p>Allah SWT explains this in Surah al-Hijr verse 52:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p>Which means: “When they entered his presence and said, "Peace!" He said, "We feel afraid of you!" ”</p>
20	‘Wajilun’ here refers to the jitters of the heart for thinking something bad may happen. When someone thinks the worst of Allah SWT, then he has actually brought dishonour upon himself, and he is ready to receive the worst that he has thought of. This clearly negates any positivity desired by Islam. Therefore, the <i>mimbar</i> would like to call upon everyone here today to instill within us the optimistic attitude towards all challenges thrown at us by Allah SWT. With that, it is hoped that we shall become positive thinkers, believing in our self and becoming servants of Allah SWT who are thankful.
21	<p>FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH,</p> <p>In conjunction with the FIFTY FOURTH (54TH) WORLD CUSTOMS DAY 2016, the <i>mimbar</i> would also like to invite all who are here today, especially those within the Royal Malaysia Customs Department, to make the celebration as a way to light the torch of providing service based on already determined principles.</p>
22	While for the other agencies involved in our border controls, let us together strengthen the cooperation to increase each of our abilities, in order to strengthen the best management through championing virtuous attributes, ethics, morals and mutual understanding. With that, may we be able to gain great benefits that would prosper the nation and its people.
23	In short, a concerted effort should be performed by making all parties realise their respective responsibilities in preserving our nation’s security. It



	<p>should not be placed on the shoulders of the customs or members of the armed and security forces alone without assistance from each and every individual in this nation. The struggle to protect the peace and security of our nation is considered as part of the acts of worship, and a form of our <i>jihad</i> in the way of Allah SWT. This is the time for us to be united to protect the sovereignty of our nation and religion, and to deny any effort which could destroy its peace.</p>
24	<p>To conclude this sermon, the <i>mimbar</i> would like to invite all who are here today to ponder upon the gist of this sermon, among them as follows:</p> <p>First: The attitude of not losing hope when faced with challenges demands us to become better persons.</p> <p>Second: Always have good thoughts about, and ask for assistance from, Allah SWT, in all aspects.</p> <p>Third: Make the attitude of not giving up as a habit, be patient and avoid doing acts based on our emotions and desires.</p>
25	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah al-An'am verse 82:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الْأَمْنُ وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ </p> <p>Which means: "It is those who believe and confuse not their beliefs with wrong - that are (truly) in security, for they are on (right) guidance."</p>
26	<p>بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>