



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL SERMON FOR FEDERAL TERRITORIES DAY CHEERFUL CITY PROSPEROUS CITIZENS 29 January 2015AD / 19 Rabiulakhir 1437H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">الحمد لله الذي علم وأنعم، وهدانا بالقرآن للتي هي أقوم،</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ مَنْ آمَنَ مِنْهُمْ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ قَالَ وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَأُمْتِعْهُ قَلِيلًا ثُمَّ أَضْطَرُّهُ إِلَىٰ عَذَابِ النَّارِ وَنِيسَ الْمَصِيرِ ﴿١٢٦﴾</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 عَلَىٰ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">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 تَفْلِحُونَ.</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>There is no reminder that is more beautiful and more worthy on the face of this earth than the reminder of conviction. Therefore, let us place our conviction in Allah SWT with the truest of convictions, and that is to perform all the commands of Allah SWT and to leave aside all that He has forbidden. Indeed, conviction is the best security when we face Allah SWT in the afterlife.</p>



8	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>1st February 1974 is a significant date as it was on that date that Kuala Lumpur was declared the capital city of Malaysia and the first Federal Territory, followed by the formation of Labuan on 16th April 1984, and Putrajaya on 1st February 2001 as the next Federal Territories. Therefore, every February 1st of each year is celebrated as Federal Territories Day.</p>
9	<p>Accordingly, the <i>khatib</i> today shall deliver the sermon entitled, "<i>Cheerful City, Prosperous Citizens</i>".</p>
10	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>World history has recorded the excellence of Muslims from around the first (1st) to the third (3rd) century <i>hijrah</i>. City life, which was established by them in those eras, successfully shaped the Islamic civilization, which was in turn based on the Quran and the Sunnah. Muslims succeeded in producing a variety of institutions in social, political, economic and cultural development of a civil society, acting as a shining example for the world, surpassing even other civilizations which were still backward.</p>
11	<p>Given the current realities and the environment of our beloved city, we are often presented with critical issues that are suffocating our minds as its citizens. Issues, such as the rising cost of living, for instance, has contributed to a sharp rise in criminal activities. Similarly, issues regarding race and religion, have invited discord and misunderstanding between races and religions, and has created a rift between fellow citizens.</p>
12	<p>The gap in the standard of living between the rich and the poor has also created jealousy among them. The poor are envious of the rich, while many of the rich seem to be selfish. In addition, issues of moral decadence, promiscuity, excessive entertainment, unnatural sex, sin, corruption, oppression, and many others, also contribute to the breakdown of the society and is crippling the development of the city.</p>



13	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>There are several issues which we need to look into together. Do we just observe, be neutral and not act? What is the real meaning of modernity? What are the solutions according to Islam? What is the attitude we need to have and the role we need to play? These questions show that we have no other way to solve these problems but to return to the teachings of Islam to help us.</p>
14	<p>The City of <i>Madinah al-Munawwarah</i> is a direct manifestation of the concept of monotheism in Islam and how it influences its citizens. It was founded on the principle of faith, thought and discipline based on <i>Shari'a</i> laws. An old man, who cycles in the village, but possesses high public morals and respect for the rights of others, is more civilized than the person wearing a suit and tie but accepts bribes.</p>
15	<p>The uncle in a sarong who throws his garbage in the proper dustbin, is more enlightened than a person who is smartly dressed but throws his cigarette butts everywhere. A poor man who works tirelessly to preserve his faith and avoids ascribing partners to Allah SWT is more progressive than the rich who drives around in a luxury car but wears the <i>tangkal</i>, or charms, or commutes to and from the <i>bomoh's</i> house. There is no sense in having magnificent buildings in the city if the faith of its citizens is shaky.</p>
16	<p>The Federal Territories are well known as the centre to earn a living among its citizens. A variety of jobs, services and businesses operate vibrantly all the time. However, each individual must fulfil their respective obligations. Regardless of whether they are employers, employees, self-employed or civil servants, they must ensure their earnings are obtained lawfully and they are always grateful. In addition, each individual must inculcate the values of acceptance, having good thoughts and positive thinking when faced with the challenges of life today.</p>
17	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>The peace and harmony of a city is based on the strong cooperation between all parties, whether government agencies, NGOs, or even</p>



	individuals. The practice of advising, reminding and mutually cooperating between the people should be revived in order to curb social problems in the city.
18	As stated by Allah SWT, a part of verse 2, in Surah Al-Maidah: <p>...وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ﴿٢﴾</p>
19	Which means: “...And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in punishment.”
20	Various efforts have been and are being developed to ensure the welfare of citizens in the Federal Territory is looked after. For example, to address social problems, the Ministry of Federal Territories has launched the Programme on Combating Illegal Activities (OPS BAH) in collaboration with other government agencies and NGOs. To assist citizens living in the Federal Territories to own homes, the Ministry of Federal Territories is creating affordable housing (RUMAWIP).
21	To ensure the environment of the Federal Territories is cheerful and enjoyable, the Clean Task Force Program was created to improve the overall cleanliness in, and around, residential areas.
22	Thus, the commitment of all parties, especially the citizens of the Federal Territories, is required. Every citizen is responsible for ensuring that the city continues to be peaceful and harmonious.
23	A noble but difficult attitude to implement is the inclination to volunteer. Islam not only encourages volunteerism, but also encourages it as a culture in the society.
24	Take for example the spirit of the Companions in building the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah and making the city of Madinah prosperous. The sacrifice of time, energy and wealth with just the expectation of reward



	from Allah SWT alone was the key factor for their success.
25	<p>As stated by Allah SWT in Surah al-An'am, verse 90:</p> <p>أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ فَبِهِدَّتْهُمْ أَلْتَدَةُ قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرًا لِلْعَالَمِينَ</p>
26	<p>Which means: "Those are the ones whom Allah has guided, so from their guidance take an example. Say, "I ask of you no payment for this message. It is not but a reminder for the worlds."</p>
27	<p>Such are the Islamic principles and methods of solving issues in order to develop the citizens of cities into becoming become great and civilised.</p> <p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Among the most important areas for developing and shaping the city in Islam is to optimize the role of the mosque. The institution of the mosque has great potential as a centre of worship and Islamic culture. It is able to produce competent leaders in all areas of public life.</p>
28	<p>The main pillar in matters of worship is our Prayers or <i>Solat</i>. How many among the city's residents today have ears which are sensitive and responsive to the call to prayers, or the <i>Adzan</i>? How many among the city's residents today are making proactive efforts to perform the obligatory prayers at a mosque? A mosque is not considered to be thriving, even with various religious activities organised by it, if the number of people attending and performing the obligatory prayers is small.</p>
29	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, To conclude today's sermon, the <i>khatib</i> would like to provide the following gist:</p> <p>First: The historical prosperity of Makkah and Madinah is the</p>



	<p>ultimate model to follow when forming Islamic cities, which should be the reference point when building and developing other Islamic cities.</p> <p>Second: The foundation of an excellent citizen is through the adoption of Islamic teachings in his daily life, which requires the involvement of all stakeholders in the development of human capital.</p> <p>Third: People living in the city should support any effort undertaken or being undertaken to produce a cheerful city and prosperous citizens.</p>
30	<p>Allah SWT stated in Surah Saba', verse 15:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>لَقَدْ كَانَ لِسَبَإٍ فِي مَسْكِنِهِمْ آيَةٌ جَنَّتَانِ عَنْ يَمِينٍ وَشِمَالٍ كُلُوا مِنْ رِزْقِ رَبِّكُمْ وَأَشْكُرُوا لَهُ. بَلَدَةٌ طَيِّبَةٌ وَرَبٌّ غَفُورٌ ﴿١٥﴾</p>
31	<p>Which means: "There was for [the tribe of] Saba' in their dwelling place, a sign: two [fields of] gardens on the right and on the left. [They were told], "Eat from the provisions of your Lord and be grateful to Him. A good land [have you], and a forgiving Lord."</p>
32	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلَ هَذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.</p>