



1	 <p>APPRECIATING PUBLIC FACILITIES IS EVIDENCE OF GRATITUDE 26 February 2015AD / 17 Jamadilawwal 1437H</p>
2	الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ وَأَنْعَمَ، وَهَدَانَا بِالْقُرْآنِ لَلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ،
3	<p>قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>وَمَا كَانَ لِنَبِيِّ أَنْ يَقُولَ وَمَنْ يَغْلُلْ يَأْتِ بِمَا غَلَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ ﴿١١١﴾</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 الدِّينِ.
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>Let us together expand and build our conviction towards Allah SWT within our soul by complying with His decrees, executing His commandments and avoiding what He has forbade. That is conviction, which guarantees us the blessings of Allah SWT. Let us prepare ourselves for the afterlife, as conviction, or <i>taqwa</i>, is the best provision in the afterlife.</p>
8	A wide range of amenities and comforts are provided for us living in the modern world today. Infrastructure and facilities can be enjoyed anywhere, even in mosques. With all these blessings bestowed upon us by Allah SWT,



	we should have greater feelings of gratitude towards Him.
9	Reflecting on this, the sermon today will discuss the topic " <i>Appreciating Public Facilities is Evidence of Gratitude</i> ".
10	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, The facilities made available in mosques for us are much better today compared to decades ago. Carpeted prayer halls, electricity, air conditioning or fan, ablution facilities, and well-maintained bathrooms and toilets. In fact, there are even mosques which provide internet and wifi, digital information displays and various facilities to ensure the needs and comfort of Muslims today are well catered for.
11	Unfortunately, there are some members of the congregation who do not appreciate the facilities provided. We often encounter incidents that should not occur, like lights and fans that are not switched off after use. Similarly, water taps that are not shut off properly, resulting in water wastage. Does not all this add to the cost of maintaining the mosque, when these resources can be channelled towards other areas for the common benefit of others?
12	Not only are these facilities badly maintained and used improperly, some even dare to commit theft and inflict damage upon them. The disappearance of the water tap heads, and damage to door locks, toilet pumps, light switches and fans are incidents we hear repeatedly every week. What is even more distressing is that mosques which were recently opened or newly renovated are experiencing the same problem.
13	A lot of damage and loss are incurred within a month of operation. These acts of vandalism have now spread to the Houses of God. This is the behaviour of a handful of Allah SWT's servants who has no fear of Him, much less to love Him.
14	The frequency of these incidents happening leaves a question mark in our minds; should all that happen in the house of God, the God that we worship? What is the level of our faith, when, even in God's house, we do not feel discouraged to go against Him? Where has the caring attitude of



	Muslims towards their houses of worship gone to?
15	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>We are reminded every day of rewards and punishment, about trust and responsibility, about the day of Judgement in the Hereafter where we will be questioned for whatever we do. We are constantly advised and reminded to take care of public facilities because it is a trust put upon us by Allah SWT to which we will be questioned later in the afterlife. But, all of these reminders and warnings continue to be ignored and neglected. What is constantly reminded and warned does not seem to have any effect on our souls, it is just like pouring water onto sand. Every time a man does an ill deed, it marks a stain on his heart.</p>
16	<p>But, upon repentance and being forgiven, such stain is washed off. If there is no repentance and forgiveness, the stain deepen and spread more and more, until the heart is encrusted and hardened. This black hardened heart filled with sin is a hindrance to doing good and will lead towards misdeeds and damage.</p>
17	<p>Let us ponder on what has been stated by Allah SWT in Surah al-Mutaffifin, verse 14 :</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ط ب كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِم مَّا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿١٤﴾</p> <p>Which means: “By no means! But on their hearts is the stain of the (ill) which they do!”</p>
18	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Let us cleanse our hearts by appreciating and practicing the teachings of Islam based on the Al-Quran and the <i>Sunnah</i>. The awareness and acknowledgement of the religion is what will build the faith in our souls. Here are some guidelines for us to return to being grateful and faithful servants of Allah SWT:</p>
19	<p>First: Appreciating Allah SWT’s blessings will bestow a better life</p> <p>Public facilities are valuable gifts from Allah SWT which has to be</p>



	appreciated. Maintaining property and public facilities is proof that we are grateful for the favours bestowed by Allah SWT. It brings blessings in life. But, if we do not use them properly, it will eliminate the blessings in our life, and makes us dissatisfied with what we have.
20	As narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari Rhm and recorded by Abu Said al-Khudri, Rasulullah SAW mentions that: وَإِنَّ هَذَا الْمَالَ حُلْوَةٌ، مَنْ أَخَذَهُ بِحَقِّهِ، وَوَضَعَهُ فِي حَقِّهِ، فَنِعْمَ الْمَعُونَةُ هُوَ، وَمَنْ أَخَذَهُ بِغَيْرِ حَقِّهِ كَانَ كَالَّذِي يَأْكُلُ وَلَا يَشْبَعُ
21	Which means: "Possessions are like sweet green plants. Anyone who acquires it in the right way and uses it correctly, then the possessions would be best for him. And those who acquires it in a way that is not right, then he is like one who eats but is never satisfied."
22	Second: Fostering a sense of responsibility and care All of us need to educate ourselves to be more aware and responsible towards the public facilities that are shared among us. Although it is not private property, but is it not better to reap the benefits of its wellbeing that can be enjoyed by all, as long as it is in good condition? What is the harm if we rush to close opened water taps and switch off unused lights and fans? And if there were trash and rubbish scattered around, is it us who hurry to clean it up?
23	Is it not better if we use all appliances in the mosque with prudence, so that it can be enjoyed by all much longer? Rest assured, whatever good we do for the house of Allah SWT, the reward is huge.
24	As narrated by Imam Ibnu Majah and recorded by Abu Said Al-khudri, Rasulullah SAW mentions that: مَنْ أَخْرَجَ أَدَى مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ بَيْتًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ Which means: "Anyone who removes any impurities from a mosque, Allah



	<i>SWT will build for him a mansion in Heaven."</i>
25	<p>Third: Entrust good culture and attitude</p> <p>The generation today needs to be an example of compassion, patience, care and responsibility to their children. Entrust on them noble qualities so that they become men of faith and fearful of punishment in the afterlife.</p>
26	Do not be weary in continuing to advise, educate, develop and nurture their souls with good advice. At the same time, we must demonstrate good Islamic character that will be an example for them.
27	It would be nice if they grow up in a society that continuously maintains any facility, is responsible for managing public property voluntarily based on their own awareness and appreciate all the facilities available in and around their environment. Remember, any action that we display which are received and followed by our children, whether good or bad, is an investment that will reap rewards or punishment in the afterlife.
28	<p>Rasulullah SAW has reminded us on this matter through a Hadith narrated by Ibnu Majah and recorded by Juhaifah RA:</p> <p>مَنْ سَنَّ سُنَّةَ حَسَنَةً فَعَمِلَ بِهَا بَعْدَهُ كَانَ لَهُ أَجْرُهُ وَمِثْلُ أَجْرِهِمْ مِنْ غَيْرِ أَنْ يَنْقُصَ مِنْ أَجْرِهِمْ شَيْئًا وَمَنْ سَنَّ سُنَّةً سَيِّئَةً فَعَمِلَ بِهَا بَعْدَهُ كَانَ عَلَيْهِ وِزْرُهُ وَمِثْلُ أَوْزَارِهِمْ مِنْ غَيْرِ أَنْ يَنْقُصَ مِنْ أَوْزَارِهِمْ شَيْئًا</p>
29	<p>Which means: "Anyone who teaches a person kindness and practiced by persons after him then he will be rewarded and would not lessen the rewards for those who practice it, as well as those who teach and practice misdeeds then the burden of sin on him will not lessen the sin from those who practises the misdeed."</p>
30	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Rest assured, if all Muslims unite and work together to adopt the recommendations as mentioned above to foster a caring and responsible</p>



	<p>attitude in maintaining the facilities of the mosque, God willing, we will reap the results. Future generations will be born embracing kindness, charity, responsibility and their characters rooted in faith, live happily as well as make others happy. This is the real character of a Muslim community member which we all aspire to have and become.</p>
31	<p>As we come to the end of this sermon, let us gather the gems of today's Friday sermon to reflect and apply as guidance in our lives. Among them are:</p> <p>First: Facilities provided in mosques are gifts bestowed by Allah SWT and should be cared for and used wisely.</p> <p>Second: The act of damaging and neglecting the care and maintenance of facilities provided is a culture of vandalism that should be avoided. It is a sign of weakness in faith and will diminish the blessings which the perpetrator will receive from Allah SWT.</p> <p>Third: Prove your gratitude and receive your just rewards from Allah SWT by cultivating a caring and responsible attitude towards facilities provided to us by the mosques and towards public facilities.</p>
32	<p>Ponder upon the words stated by Allah SWT in surah al-Aa'raf, verse 179:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>وَلَقَدْ ذَرَأْنَا لِجَهَنَّمَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالإِنسِ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَهُمْ أَعِينٌ لَا يُصِرُونَ بِهَا وَهُمْ ءَاذَانٌ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا أُولَئِكَ كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْغَافِلُونَ</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p>



33	Which means: “Many are the Jinns and men We have made for Hell: They have hearts where with they understand not, eyes where with they see not and ears where with they hear not. They are like cattle but more misguided: for they are heedless (of warning).”
34	<p>بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِجَمِيعِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.</p>