



1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“ THE MEASURE OF LOYALTY ”</b> (18 March 2016AD / 9 Jamadilakhir 1437H)</p>
2	<p>الحمد لله القائل</p>
3	<p>يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن تَنَزَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا</p>
4	<p>أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ</p>
5	<p>اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ</p>
6	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ. اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ فِيمَا أَمَرَ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ فِيمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجِرُوا</p>
7	<p><b>FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH,</b> On this auspicious day I would like to remind myself and call on this congregation to fear Allah SWT with the truest of convictions, by performing all that He has commanded and abandoning all that He has prohibited. May we be among those who live prosperously on Earth and be rewarded with eternal prosperity in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>The <i>mimbar</i> today will deliver a sermon entitled <b>"THE MEASURE OF LOYALTY"</b>.</p>
9	<p><b>FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH,</b> While other Islamic countries in the world are weakening or disintegrating</p>



	<p>due to mistakes committed by its citizens in being emotionally influenced by their enemy's provocation and incitement, Malaysia still stands firm and perseveres from following in their footsteps. Malaysia, as an Islamic nation and enjoying a range of blessings and graces of Allah SWT, is seen as a capable leader for all Muslim nations of the world.</p>
10	<p>However, the main issue that arises is how are we able to attain all these blessings if our leaders are not among the worthy; being fair, efficient, intelligent and caring? When we look at our country's landscape and society, with different races, religions and cultures, it looks so fragile with the risk of falling apart. Thus, loyalty to a just and fair ruler or leader is essential, as agreed by the majority of scholars, jurists and others. The decree to be loyal to the country's leaders do not come from the leaders themselves, but from Allah SWT. Therefore, if the citizens are disloyal towards the leaders, that means they have been disloyal to Allah SWT.</p>
11	<p>Embrace the words of Allah SWT in Surah an-Nisa ', verse 59:</p> <p>﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنكُمْ فَإِن تَنَزَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا ﴾</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> "O, you who believe! Obey Allah and obey Rasulallah and those charged with authority among you. If you differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah (Al-Quran) and His Messenger's guidelines (Sunnah) if you do believe in Allah and the Day of Judgement: that is best and most suitable final outcome."</p>
12	<p>Based on this verse, Imam Nawawi reiterated that citizens must be loyal to their leaders and the country. If they are careless and irresponsible, then they are not civilized according to Allah SWT. This is the most fundamental duty and responsibility of citizens, as dictated by Allah SWT through the verse above.</p>



13	<p><b>FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH,</b></p> <p>Compliance and loyalty towards government authorities or Muslim leaders (<i>Ulil Amri</i>) is one of the principles of the doctrine of the Followers of the Sunnah (<i>Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah</i>). Therefore, leaders must carry out the mandate to manage the affairs of Muslims in a country in order to maintain religious and worldly affairs.</p>
14	<p>According to Sheikh Abdus Salam Barjas, author of the book <i>Mu'ammalatul Hukkam Fii Dhaw al-Kitab wa as-Sunnah</i>, there are several ways to determine leaders of the Muslims, namely: (i) those who have sovereignty or jurisdiction to govern the society or the people, (ii) those who have been elected and appointed, either through the proper rules or otherwise, (iii) those who do not meet the eligibility required to be the rightful leader, but has held power in the government, therefore they must be obeyed and be loyal to, and (iv) those who are appointed based on the needs of a specific country or region.</p>
15	<p>Imam Bukhari recorded a narration by Abdullah ibn Umar that Rasulullah SAW had said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">السَّمْعُ وَالطَّاعَةُ عَلَى الْمَرْءِ الْمُسْلِمِ، فِيمَا أَحَبَّ وَكَرِهَ، مَا لَمْ يُؤْمَرْ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ، فَإِذَا أُمِرَ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ فَلَا سَمْعَ وَلَا طَاعَةَ</p>
16	<p><b>Which means:</b> "Muslims are obliged to listen to, and comply with, all instructions of their leaders, whether they are liked or hated, unless instructed or ordered to commit evil. When told to do evil, they can refuse to comply with the instructions,"</p>
17	<p><b>FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH,</b></p> <p>Therefore, the <i>mimbar</i> would like to call on all parties in the country, to present a good example among each other by working together to put forward ideas that are beneficial for the well being of the people and for the prosperity of the country. If there are disagreements and differences of opinions, we must immediately return to the guidance provided in the <i>Qur'an</i></p>



	and <i>Sunnah</i> and celebrate that opportunity with wisdom and compassion.
18	We should not choose to discredit one another, be hostile and defame each other, which could lead to our own destruction. It would be shameful if such disagreements and disloyalties are witnessed by the international community. Such actions can destabilise the country.
19	It is incorrect to say that only the government has responsibilities towards the citizens they govern. Its citizens also have obligations towards the government. As much as its citizens deserve justice and fairness from the government, the government also deserves to be treated with justice and fairness by its citizens. Therefore, as citizens, we must understand and respect the government's responsibilities, as well as support what has been planned.
20	<p>As narrated by 'Auf bin Malik al-Asyja', and recorded by Imam Muslim, Rasulullah SAW said,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">خِيَارُ أُمَّتِكُمُ الَّذِينَ تُحِبُّونَهُمْ وَيُحِبُّونَكُمْ وَيُصَلُّونَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَتُصَلُّونَ عَلَيْهِمْ</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> "The best of your leaders are those whom you love and love you back, you pray for them and they pray for you."</p>
21	Ultimately, for those who honor and respect the government and its leaders, Allah SWT will honor them on the Day of Judgment, while those who do not, then Allah SWT will shame them on the Day of Judgment. Acts that belittle leaders is akin to releasing the reins of Islam from around our own neck.
22	<p>As narrated by Abu Dhar RA and recorded by Imam Ahmad, Rasulullah SAW said,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">إِنَّهُ كَأَنَّ بَعْدِي سُلْطَانٌ فَلَا تُدْلُوهُ فَمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يُذَلَّهُ فَقَدْ خَلَعَ رِبْقَةَ الْإِسْلَامِ مِنْ عُنُقِهِ</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> "Indeed, there will exist a leader after me. Therefore, do not</p>



	<i>insult him, for those who insult him, it is akin to giving up the reins of Islam from your own neck."</i>
23	<p><b>FELLOW MUSLIMS BLESSED BY ALLAH</b></p> <p>Islam has complete rules and guidelines that govern the responsibilities of the government and leaders as well as responsibilities and obligations of citizens. If both parties fulfill their respective responsibilities properly, it increases the safety and peace of the country. Thus, the key to success rest with the Muslims themselves. We need to hold firmly to the teachings of Islam, which guarantees success in this world and in the Hereafter</p>
24	The combination of a fair and just government with loyal citizens will trigger a balance in society and will be enjoyed by all. If otherwise, this benefit and blessings will only be wishful thinking. To be sure, this affection and devotion between the people and the government must be deeply instilled to nurture loyalty.
25	<p>To conclude this sermon, the <i>mimbar</i> would like to invite the congregation on this blessed Friday to appreciate and reflect upon the essence of today's sermon, namely:</p> <p><b>First:</b> Obeying the leader in the affairs and matters of kindness and good (<i>ma'ruf</i>), including the realization of instructions and assisting them in managing these matters, is an obligation.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> Citizens who are obedient and loyal would always respect, honor and pray for the wellbeing of their leaders.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> Islam forbids discrediting or belittling each other as well as outwardly displaying disobedience, to humiliate or to insult and taunt each other.</p>
26	<p>﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ﴿٧٠﴾ يُصَلِّحْ لَكُمْ</p> <p>أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا</p>



	<p style="text-align: right;"> عَظِيمًا</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> “O, you who believe! Fear Allah and (always) say a word directed to the Right: That He may make your conduct whole and sound and forgive you of your sins: he that obeys Allah and His Messenger has already attained the highest Achievement.”</p>
27	<p>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.</p>