




1	 <p style="text-align: center;">PROVE YOUR GRATITUDE 20 May 2016AD / 13 Syaaban 1437H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: right;">الحمد لله القائل:</p>
3	<p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: right;">وَضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا قَرْيَةً كَانَتْ ءَامِنَةً مُطْمَئِنَّةً يَأْتِيهَا رِزْقُهَا رَغَدًا مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ فَكَفَرَتْ بِأَنْعَمِ اللَّهِ فَأَذَقَهَا اللَّهُ لِبَاسَ الْجُوعِ وَالْخَوْفِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَصْنَعُونَ</p> <p style="text-align: right;">﴿١١٣﴾</p>
4	<p style="text-align: right;">أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ،</p>
5	<p style="text-align: right;">اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: right;">اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ، وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى، وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Conviction is a very precious commodity. For those who possess conviction, it signifies that they had gathered all the goodness in the world and the hereafter. Do we want to receive all the blessings Allah SWT has promised</p>



	to those with conviction? If we do, obey all that Allah SWT commands and avoid all that He prohibits and ultimately, the light of conviction will forever shine on our lives.
8	To light the way towards conviction, let us ponder and reflect upon today's sermon entitled, " Prove Your Gratitude "
9	Visualise on these: The difficulties and horrors of war, the endless chaos, living a life of misery under constant pressure to just survive, uncertainties and with no sense of direction. That is the situation faced by our Muslim brothers in unstable and troubled countries and regions.
10	Looking at their fate bring tears to our eyes. Our sympathies, borne out of conscience, requires us to keep praying for them and help them as much as we can.
11	In contrast, Malaysia has always been blessed by Allah SWT, with continuous peace and tremendous prosperity, so priceless to, and valued by, its citizens. It was not easy for us to attain it as well. Fill it with goodwill and gratefulness so that it will remain for as long as it can. Do not ever betray this tranquillity and security by committing wrongdoings and misdeeds
12	as warned by Allah SWT in Surah An-Nahlu, verse 112, which was delivered at the beginning of this sermon, which means: <i>"Allah sets forth a parable: a city enjoying security and quiet abundantly supplied with sustenance from every place: yet was it ungrateful for the favours of Allah: so Allah made it taste of hunger and terror (in extremes) (closing in on it) like a garment (from every side) because of the (evil) which (its people) wrought."</i>
13	Islam emphasizes on peace and security of a country. Rasulullah SAW illustrated that peace is one of the greatest blessings in this world.

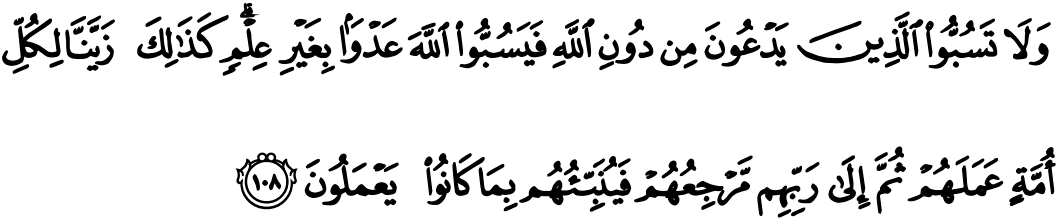


14	<p>As narrated by Abu Salamah bin 'Ubaidullah RA and recorded by Imam At-Tirmidhi RHM:</p> <p>مَنْ أَصْبَحَ مِنْكُمْ مُعَافًى فِي جَسَدِهِ آمِنًا فِي سَرِيرِهِ عِنْدَهُ قُوَّةٌ يَوْمَهُ فَكَأَنَّمَا حِيزَتْ لَهُ الدُّنْيَا</p>
15	<p>Which means: "Whoever among you, in the morning, has a body in good health, feeling a sense of security in his life, has enough food for the day, it is as if the whole world is gathered for him."</p>
16	<p>Observing how our beloved Rasulullah SAW faced and overcame challenges in governing Madinah, he should be an inspiration to us on how we should govern the community and country in order to remain peaceful and prosperous. The Madinah Charter is one of the best examples of a constitution that helped propel Madinah into becoming a progressive and successful Islamic nation. As a result, Rasulullah SAW successfully established peace, security and prosperity in times of heightened hostility between tribes.</p>
17	<p>The main thrusts of the charter are:</p> <p>First: Rasulullah SAW is the Head or Leader of the State for all people of Madinah and if there are disputes or disagreements, it shall be referred to him.</p> <p>Second: The people of Madinah is prohibited from being hostile among each other or cultivate any animosity among themselves. They are expected to be united in the name of the people of Madinah.</p> <p>Third: All the people of Madinah are free to practice their own religious rites and ceremonies.</p>



18	<p>Fourth: The people of Madinah are required to cooperate with each other and to work out a solution should economic problems arise, and to collectively defend the city of Madinah from attacks by enemies from outside Madinah.</p> <p>Fifth: The security of Jews living in Madinah is guaranteed, as long as they adhere to the agreement stated in the charter.</p> <p>Emulate Rasulullah SAW's intelligence in governing and stabilizing a country of diverse races, tribes and religions.</p>
19	<p>Always be mindful that a safe and peaceful country allows us to perform our daily activities without fear or apprehension. A diverse community made up of various races and religions can continue to enjoy cultural and religious activities peacefully and smoothly without any disturbance and animosity. This also applies to political, economic and social activities of a country. If it is governed well through understanding and mutual respect, the country shall continue to flourish.</p>
20	<p>In addition, a prosperous and peaceful country will be able to attract tourists to come and visit. The presence of foreign tourists will provide employment opportunities to the people in the hospitality, food and cultural industries.</p>
21	<p>These job opportunities will generate a source of income which in turn will improve the economic position of the citizens. Peace and prosperity can also be a factor in attracting foreign investors to invest in Malaysia.</p>
22	<p>Foreign investors will be more confident to invest in a country that is safe and peaceful.</p>



23	These blessings of peace must be maintained in order to ensure prosperity for our future generations. The question is, how do we maintain the peace and prosperity that we are enjoying now?
24	<p>Among them are:</p> <p>First: The value of understanding and respect between members of the society should be the main agenda in maintaining the security of a country. Avoid negative elements that insult or vilify any group, race or religion.</p>
25	If ever there are issues that touch on the sensitivities of any group, race or religion, approach it based on knowledge and understanding rather than based on emotions or provocation. Allah SWT has forbidden any action that offends the practices and worship of other religions other than Islam, including its symbols.
26	<p>Allah SWT has stated this in Surah Al-An'am, verse 108:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>
27	<p>Which means: “Reville not those whom they call upon besides Allah lest they out of spite revile Allah in their ignorance. Thus have We made alluring to each people its own doings. In the end will they return to their Lord and We shall then tell them the truth of all that they did.”</p>
28	<p>Second: Instil the spirit of mutual cooperation for the betterment of everyone involved. This can be seen when Malaysia established cooperation with neighbouring countries through ASEAN.</p>



29	ASEAN was established to ensure regional security is maintained and to ensure economic growth is shared and enjoyed by member countries at the same time. This close cooperation also ensures that an ASEAN member country does not interfere in the internal affairs of another,
30	To ensure there is no disagreements that could lead to misunderstandings and animosity that would threaten the security and peace of each member country. In the context of the society in Malaysia, working towards maintaining the security and prosperity of the country must be made by every member of the society, regardless of their background.
31	Third: Efforts must be made to lower the crime rate. Apart from the law already in force, the government and the citizens must work together to implement programs that educate the public to stay away from crime or activities that could be detrimental to the country.
32	Various strategies have been implemented to overcome the increasingly alarming crime rate. Use every medium available, as suggested by Allah SWT.
33	<p>Surah Al-Anfal verse 60:</p> <p>وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ وَمِنْ رِبَاطِ الْخَيْلِ تُرْهَبُونَ بِهِمْ عَدُوَّ اللَّهِ</p> <p>وَعَدُوَّكُمْ وَأَخْرَيْنَ مِنْ دُونِهِمْ لَا نَعْلَمُونَهُمْ اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُهُمْ وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ شَيْءٍ فِي</p> <p>سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ يُوَفَّ إِلَيْكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تُظْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٠﴾</p>



34	<p>Which means: <i>“Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power including steeds of war to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies of Allah and your enemies and others besides whom you may not know but whom Allah does know. Whatever you shall spend in the cause of Allah shall be repaid unto you and you shall not be treated unjustly.”</i></p>
35	<p>To end the sermon, among the conclusions that can be drawn and reflected upon are:</p> <p>First: The blessings and benefits of peace are priceless. There are many whose life are uncertain and without direction when these blessings and benefits of peace and security are taken away from them.</p> <p>Second: Enjoy and maintain the blessings of peace by filling it with matters of piety and conviction to Allah SWT, because we will be held accountable for it in the Hereafter.</p> <p>Third: Let us contribute whatever we can to ensure the preservation of peace is achieved and maintained, as well as to avoid things that will divide us and destroy the prosperity that we have always enjoyed in this beloved nation.</p>
36	<p>Surah Quraish, verses 3-4:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ ﴿٢﴾ الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُمْ مِنْ جُوعٍ وَءَامَنَهُمْ مِنْ خَوْفٍ ﴿٤﴾</p>
37	<p>Which means: <i>“Let them adore the Lord of this House. Who provides them with food against hunger and with security against fear (of danger).”</i></p>



38

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ
الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنَّا وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ
اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلِكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ
مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.