



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">AN OPPORTUNITY TO MULTIPLY REWARDS 10 June 2016AD / 5 Ramadhan 1437H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">الحمد لله الذي علم وانعم، وهدانا بالقرآن التي هي اقوم،</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">قال تعالى: اَعُوذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطٰنِ الرَّجِيْمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">يٰٓاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءٰمَنُوْا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلٰى الَّذِيْنَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُوْنَ ﴿١٨٣﴾</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له، وأشهد أن سيدنا محمدا عبده ورسوله.</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">اللهم صلِّ وسلِّم على سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وأصحابه أجمعين.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">أما بعد، فيا عباد الله، اتقوا الله، أوصيكم وإياي بتقوى الله وطاعته، فقد فاز المتقون، وتزودوا فإن خير الزاد التقوى، واتقون يا أولي الألباب، لعلكم تفلحون</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Conviction is among the many great graces of Allah SWT. Lucky indeed for those servants who have conviction in Allah SWT, for He shall provide various forms of blessings and mercies from avenues which they were initially unaware of. Even more exciting, Allah SWT shall provide ways on how to resolve problems and difficulties currently faced. Therefore, let us together strive to increase the level of our conviction in Allah SWT by obeying His commands and by staying away from all that He has warned us against, while at the same time being steadfast in performing our deeds in His name. May we be bestowed with life's blessings and prominent standing in the estimation of Allah SWT.</p>



8	<p>Ramadhan is the best chance for us to reinvigorate the attributes of conviction within us. The main objective of Ramadhan as put forth by Allah SWT is to shape a person with conviction. Allah SWT stated in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 183, which was read out at the beginning of this sermon, with the following meanings:</p> <p><i>“O, you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may (learn) self-restraint.”</i></p>
9	<p>Therefore, the <i>khatib</i> would like to invite all who are gathered here today to ponder upon the contents of the sermon entitled, “An Opportunity To Multiply Rewards”.</p>
10	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>For the faithful, they shall take the opportunity in this month that is filled with many blessings to reinvigorate the faith and conviction within them. For those who are sinful, Ramadhan is just something for them to pass their time away. For them, there is no difference between Ramadhan and the other months. They shall go about their lives without avoiding acts which have been prohibited.</p>
11	<p>This group of people does not care for the rewards offered by Allah SWT. They see nothing special in Ramadhan in respect of multiplying their acts of worship. There is neither increase in additional effort by them nor does any instruction bring any impact upon them.</p>
12	<p>Our encounter with Ramadhan is not an ordinary meeting, but a meeting which enables us to multiply our rewards and to strive harder than the normal months. Allah SWT requires all His servants to fill the month with acts that prove our obedience and would bring us closer to Him. The rewards are indeed huge.</p>
13	<p>In a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim Rahimahullah, as reported by Abu Hurairah RA:</p>



	<p>كُلُّ عَمَلٍ ابْنِ آدَمَ يُضَاعَفُ الْحَسَنَةُ عَشْرُ أَمْثَالِهَا إِلَى سَبْعِمِائَةٍ ضِعْفٍ. قَالَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ: إِلَّا الصَّوْمَ فَإِنَّهُ لِي وَأَنَا أَجْزِي بِهِ، يَدْعُ شَهْوَتَهُ وَطَعَامَهُ مِنْ أَجْلِي. لِلصَّائِمِ فَرْحَتَانِ فَرِحَةٌ عِنْدَ فِطْرِهِ. وَفَرِحَةٌ عِنْدَ لِقَاءِ رَبِّهِ، وَنَحْلُوفٌ فِيهِ أَطْيَبُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ رِيحِ الْمِسْكِ.</p> <p>(رواه مسلم)</p>
14	<p>Which means: “Each good deed of the sons of Adam shall be multiplied, one good deed with 10 until 700 times. Allah SWT declared: except for fasting, indeed fasting is for Me, and I shall provide the rewards (without limit). They avoid their wanton desires and nourishment because of Me. For those who fast there are two pleasures, the first pleasure is when they break their fast and the second pleasure is when they meet their Lord. And the smell of the mouths of those who fast are, in the estimation of Allah SWT, sweeter smelling than musk.”</p>
15	<p>Among the best course of action when fasting is to delay the <i>sahur</i> and to hasten the breaking of fast. While the optional <i>solat</i>, such as <i>solat tarawih</i>, are to be performed at the mosques and not at the <i>surau</i>. Not only would the rewards be able to be multiplied, but it may also strengthen the unity and solidarity among Muslims. The same also goes with other optional deeds such as the reading of the Al-Quran, giving charity, performing <i>zikir</i> and so on.</p>
16	<p>Fortunate indeed for those who perform the fast with sincerity, faith and hoping for the blessings of Allah SWT. In a hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari Rahimahullah, Abu Hurairah RA reported that Rasulullah SAW had said:</p> <p>مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ، وَمَنْ قَامَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ. (رواه البخاري)</p>



17	Which means: <i>“Whoever fasts during the month of Ramadhan with utmost faith and sincerity, his sins in the past shall be forgiven; and whoever enlivens the night of Lailatul Qadr with utmost faith and sincerity, then all his past sins shall be forgiven.”</i>
18	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, The opportunity afforded by Allah SWT must be utilised as best as possible. Take care not to commit anything that may invalidate such a spectacular offer. Among the matters that should be given attention to are:
19	<i>First: To better understand and to be consistent with all acts of worship</i> Strive to better understand and to be consistent with all acts of worship performed. Understanding is a form of agreement that ties us to perform something. While being consistent is the attribute of being obedient and being steadfast and unchanging. These are two different things which are really beautiful if they can be combined during the time we perform acts of worship.
20	We can observe this in the attitude of those who are initially spirited performing acts of worship at the beginning of Ramadhan but become less so from the middle, and towards the end, of Ramadhan.
21	The difference in attendance during the first night when compared the last ten nights of Ramadhan is very stark indeed, when in actual fact it is the last ten nights that we may multiply our rewards. Let us avoid such behaviour and resolve this year to be consistent with our acts of worship, as we have been during the early part of Ramadhan, especially for the last ten nights.
22	In a hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari RA, from a report by Saiyidatina Aishah R.Anha who said: كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِذَا دَخَلَ الْعَشْرُ شَدَّ مِئْزَرَهُ وَأَحْيَا لَيْلَهُ وَأَيَّقَظَ أَهْلَهُ. (رواه البخاري)



23	Which means: <i>Indeed the Prophet Muhammad SAW, when coming to the last ten days of Ramadan, he would increase his acts of worship, enliven the nights and wake up his family members.</i>
24	Second: Preserving our self from deeds that may negate our rewards Strive to ensure that we shall not do anything which could deny us the rewards for our fast.
25	This is based on the hadith of Rasulullah SAW, which was narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari Rahimahullah from a report by Abu Hurairah RA: <p style="text-align: center;">مَنْ لَمْ يَدَعْ قَوْلَ الزُّورِ وَالْعَمَلَ بِهِ فَلَيْسَ لِلَّهِ حَاجَةٌ فِي أَنْ يَدَعَ طَعَامَهُ وَشَرَابَهُ. (رواه البخاري)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(البخاري)</p> Which means: <i>“Whoever does not forsake an untrue word and action, and he performs (the action), surely Allah shall not hesitate to forsake his food and drinks.”</i>
26	Based on that hadith, it clearly shows how Allah SWT is very firm with those who fast, so that they would avoid matters that have been prohibited, such as ridiculing others, backbiting, lying, being arrogant, looking down on others, and the like. Even though such acts do not invalidate the fast, nevertheless it may reduce and even totally negate the rewards of our fast.
27	Third: Fasting but not performing solat Ramadhan, which brings us one thousand and one (1,001) benefits, should be taken advantage of, by not leaving out anything that we are obligated to perform. Sad indeed for those who fast but do not perform their obligatory five times daily <i>solat</i> . Surely those who are guilty of that would be blocked from getting the blessings and the benefits on offer during Ramadhan. Remember, each Pillar of Islam has a connection with one another and complement one another. If the second Pillar of Islam, namely <i>solat</i> , is not



	performed, then surely the pillars shall fall.
28	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Historically, Ramadhan has evidenced many victories of the Muslims from the time of Rasulullah SAW until today. It provides a signal to all of us that Ramadhan is a month which provides spiritual strength and great resolve for the Muslims, to the point that many successes were obtained even while fasting.</p>
29	<p>Therefore, there is no reason for us today to be lazy and unproductive because we are fasting, when in fact the task we are supposed to do could help us to multiply our rewards if we do it with an intent to do a good deed.</p>
30	<p>To end the sermon today, the mimbar would like to invite members of the congregation to ponder upon the following, as guidance for us all:</p> <p>First: Ramadhan is the opportunity for us to reinvigorate the conviction within us. The main objective of Ramadhan as recommended by Allah SWT is to create a person with conviction.</p> <p>Second: Grab this golden opportunity to fill Ramadhan with as many acts of worship as possible, as suggested by Rasulullah SAW, such as performing <i>solat tarawih</i>, reading the Al-Quran, <i>zikir</i>, giving donations and other good deeds.</p> <p>Third: Safeguard our fast through deeper understanding and being consistent in every act of worship that we do, and protect ourselves from acts that may cancel the rewards received from our acts of worship.</p>
31	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah An-Nahl, verse 97:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p>



	<p>مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيٰوةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٧﴾</p>
32	<p>Which means: “Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has Faith, verily, to him will We give a new Life, a life that is good and pure and We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions.”</p>
33	<p>بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلِكُمْ بِالْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَاِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، اِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. اَقُوْلُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَاَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلِكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ اِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.</p>