



1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>KEEPING THE FAITH, SAFEGUARDING THE NATION</b>  <i>In conjunction with Malaysia Day</i>  16 September 2016AD / 14 Zulhijjah 1436H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ وَأَنْعَمَ، وَهَدَانَا بِالْقُرْآنِ لَلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ،</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَهُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَكِنْ يُدْخِلُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ وَالظَّالِمُونَ مَا لَهُمْ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ ﴿٨﴾</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 عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَأَيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ، وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى، وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.</p>
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b>  Let us nourish our souls with the highest conviction towards Allah SWT, strive our best to perform all His commands, and avoid all that He has prohibited. For those who truly fear and have faith in Allah SWT, he shall always protect himself from any harm and difficulty. May we receive His blessings and graces in this world and in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>16th September 1963 was a significant day in our nation's history, for it was then that the Federation, consisting of the Malay States, Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore, was declared a country called <i>Malaysia</i>. Thus, the dates is celebrated every year to commemorate the historic event.</p>



9	The <i>khatib</i> today shall discuss the sermon entitled " <b>Keeping The Faith, Safeguarding The Nation</b> " as a reminder and reflection for us all.
10	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> As servants of Allah SWT, we must be grateful to Him, as he has bestowed upon our country peace, unity and prosperity. In fact, it is only to Him that we pray and ask for such blessings to continue for generations to come.
11	For Muslims who truly have faith and conviction in Allah SWT, these surely are blessings and goals that we dream of and aim to achieve in this world and in the hereafter. It is the result of faith and conviction which are sown in the souls of those who always appreciate the Al-Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet SAW.
12	Allah SWT stated in Surah al-Nahl, verse 30: <p style="text-align: center;">وَقِيلَ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا مَاذَا أَنْزَلَ رَبُّكُمْ قَالُوا خَيْرٌ لِلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ وَلَدَارُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ وَلَنِعَمَ دَارَ الْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٣٠﴾</p>
13	<b>Which means:</b> "To the righteous (when) it is said, "What is it that your Lord has revealed?" They say, "All that is good." To those who do good, there is good in this world, and the Home of the Hereafter is even better and excellent indeed is the Home of the righteous,"
14	According to Imam Ibn Kathir Rahimahullah, what is meant by 'good' in the verse read just now are mercy and blessings for those who obey and believe in Allah SWT.
15	Through this verse, Allah SWT has disclosed his promise and provided assurance to His servants who do good, that they will be blessed with goodness in this world and in the hereafter.
16	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Every person in this world must possess a feeling of patriotism. Therefore, this feeling of love for the country is, by nature and grace, bestowed by Allah SWT



	upon His servants. It is not something that contradicts the teachings of Islam. In fact, love for the motherland was also shown by Prophet Muhammad SAW.
17	Imam al-Bukhari Rahimahullah recorded a hadith narrated by Abu al-Ansari Humayd RA, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:  أَقْبَلْنَا مَعَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مِنْ غَزْوَةِ تَبُوكَ حَتَّى إِذَا أَشْرَفْنَا عَلَى الْمَدِينَةِ، قَالَ: هَذِهِ طَابَةٌ وَهَذَا أَحَدُ جِبَلٍ يُحِبُّنَا وَنُحِبُّهُ.
18	<i>"We returned home from the war in Tabuk with the Prophet until we reached Medina, where he said:" This (the town) is good. And this is Mount Uhud, the mountain we love and loves us back."</i>
19	Based on these events, the role of the country and motherland as a base for the development and expansion of the message of Islam is very crucial and important. Moreover, the physical earth is also the focus of affection and love.
20	Therefore, as Muslims we should realize this and together maintain peace and harmony of our nation in order to ensure Islam continues to be preserved here.
21	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Independent Malaysia has gone through a long growing period and can now be considered as matured. We, as citizens, need to reflect and evaluate the achievements of our country. This is important in determining which areas or issues that can be improved, strengthened, or gained in the future.
22	No country wants a reversal of its achievements and successes. They all dream to achieve technological progress, economic sustainability, and a glorious civilization. That includes our beloved country. The questions are: What are our actions in determining the standards of progress and modernity? What culture and community should we take as example? What knowledge and history should we leave our future generations?
23	In the face of this challenging situation, Rasulullah SAW sought to remind and guide us through a hadith recorded by Imam al-Bukhari Rahimahullah and



	narrated by Abu Sa'id al-Khudri RA:  لَتَتَّبِعَنَّ سَنَنَ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ شِبْرًا شِبْرًا وَذِرَاعًا بِذِرَاعٍ حَتَّىٰ لَوْ دَخَلُوا جُحْرَ ضَبٍّ تَبِعْتُمُوهُمْ. قُلْنَا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَىٰ؟ قَالَ: فَنَنْ!
24	<b>Which means:</b> "Indeed, all of you will follow the traditions (customs) of the people before you, span by span, cubit by cubit, even if they lead you in a lizard's pit too you will follow them." The Companions asked: "O, Messenger of Allah, are they the Jews and Christians?" He replied: "Who else if not them!"
25	It is clear from the hadith above, what was envisioned by Rasulullah SAW then is evidently displayed today. Our society tends to adopt western culture and way of life. Some of us think, speak, dress, move and live like what was advertised by the Jews and Christians.
26	This is not a good sign. In fact, it should be contained and controlled so that it does not spread and grow until it erodes our own identity. This does not necessarily mean we should not accept or embrace whatever that is good. But, we have to be intelligent enough, to be rational, and to be able to judge wisely for the sake of developing our country's own civilisation.
27	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> The roles and responsibilities of developing the nation lie in the hands of Muslims, be it leaders or ordinary citizens. Each is endowed by Allah SWT with various capabilities. These efforts would be crippled if one person expects the other to do something, but he is actually sitting idle.
28	Allah SWT stated in Surah Ali 'Imran, verse 104:  وَلَتَكُنَّ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٠٤﴾



29	<b>Which means:</b> “Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: They are the ones to attain felicity.”
30	We should not be complacent and be engrossed with whatever enjoyment we already have until it makes us incapable of working to preserve and strengthen the religion and nation.
31	Who would think about the fate of this country for the next 50 or 100 years? Would people be closer to Allah SWT then or further away? May Allah SWT give us strength and awareness to assume this responsibility before it is too late.
32	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>To end the sermon today, let us ponder on some conclusions as reflection and guidance for us all:</p> <p><b>First:</b> Muslims must strive to avoid disagreement and discord which does not benefit the religion and nation.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> Efforts to achieve progress and civilization of the country should be based on the teachings and principles of Islam.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> All parties should endeavour to develop the country through the call to perform good and avoid evil.</p>
33	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah al-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 ﴿٩٧﴾</p>



34	<b>Which means:</b> “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.”
35	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، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ .