



1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BEING RESPECTFUL IN THE HOUSE OF ALLAH</b> 7 April 2017AD / 10 Rejab 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُرْشِدًا.</p>
3	<p>أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،</p>
4	<p>اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
5	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُقْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ   فِي بُيُوتِ آذِنَ اللَّهُ أَنْ تَرْفَعَ وَيَذْكَرَ فِيهَا أَسْمُهُ، يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ فِيهَا بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ</p>
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> The mosque is a place to build the strength of faith and conviction. It is also the House of Allah SWT and venerated by Him and His faithful servants. Therefore, always present the best of ourselves in the mosque so as to express our conviction in Allah SWT. May our conviction enable us to find real success in this world and in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>The <i>mimbar</i> today shall present the sermon entitled: "<b>Being Respectful In The House Of Allah</b>".</p>
9	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p>



	<p>There can be no place better than a mosque. Here, Muslims are united in their prayer and worship towards Allah SWT the Almighty. It is also a place to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood among Muslims. In fact, the mosque should serve as a catalyst to elevate the status of Islam in the eyes of the world, as well as creating strong and powerful Muslims.</p>
10	<p>Whoever elevates the greatness of Allah SWT, it is a sign of conviction, as stated by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Hajj, verse 32:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> ذَٰلِكَ وَمَنْ يُعِظِمِ شَعْبِيرَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهَا مِن تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> “Such (is his state): and whoever holds in honour the symbols of Allah, (in the sacrifice of animals), such (honour) should come truly from piety of heart.”</p>
11	<p>However, there are some Muslims who are not aware of the respect and the proper etiquette to practice when they are in the house of Allah SWT. There have been embarrassing incidents in the vicinity of mosques, such as fights and arguments. In addition, misconduct and bad manners should not surface. Those include: frivolous activities, such as playing with personal handheld gadgets or devices while the sermon is being read, unnecessary and mindless conversations, dirtying the compound of the mosque, and the destruction of property or facilities of the mosque.</p>
12	<p>There have also been behaviour that contribute to sinning, such as stealing valuables and properties that belong to the mosque or belonging to others, dressing indecently, and the cruel act of abandoning new-born babies. Sadly, these are not unfamiliar occurrences in our society now, but are we expected to just close our eyes when faced with such incidents? Let us ponder on that for a while.</p>



13	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Allah SWT explained through Surah An-Nur, verse 36:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p style="text-align: right;">  </p>
14	<p><b>Which means:</b> “(Lit is such a Light) in houses, which Allah has permitted to be raised to honour; for the celebration, in them, of His name: In them is He glorified in the mornings and in the evenings, (again and again).”</p>
15	<p>Therefore, such institutions need to have its name and reputation maintained, consistent with its position in Islam. Therefore, the <i>mimbar</i> would like to suggest to the congregation some guidelines regarding manners and behaviours in mosques, as indicated by Allah SWT and the Prophet Muhammad SAW:</p>
16	<p><b>First:</b> Be sincere with your intentions when visiting the mosque, so that Allah SWT may accept all our worship. Attend the mosque to perform the duties of a servant of Allah SWT without expecting praise from anyone or wanting to be seen by the public.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> Dress up well and appropriately when going to the mosque.</p>
17	<p>As commanded by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Araf, verse 31:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p><b>Which means:</b> “O, Children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of prayer: eat and drink: But waste not by excess, for Allah loves not the wasters.”</p>
18	<p>In the <i>tafsir</i> of Imam Ibnu Kathir regarding this verse, he said that it is highly encouraged to prepare and groom oneself as best as possible when going to the mosque, such as putting on fragrances and so on.</p>



19	<p><b>Third:</b> Avoid smells that could disturb other members of the congregation while in the mosque, such as the smell from food, from smoking, socks and unpleasant body odour. That is why Rasulullah SAW encouraged us to first clean our mouth and body before performing our prayers.</p> <p><b>Fourth:</b> Recite the respective special prayers when we enter and exit the mosque.</p>
20	<p>Recorded by Imam Muslim and narrated by either Abu Humaid or Abu Usaid RA, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">إِذَا دَخَلَ أَحَدُكُمْ الْمَسْجِدَ فَلْيَقُلْ اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ وَإِذَا خَرَجَ فَلْيَقُلْ اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ</p>
21	<p><b>Which means:</b> "If one of you enter the mosque, then he should recite, 'O Allah, open the doors of Your mercy'. And once he is outside, he should say, 'O Allah, I ask You of Your Bounty' ".</p>
22	<p><b>Fifth:</b> Walk towards the <i>Saf</i> (row for <i>solat</i>) quietly and politely. Rasulullah SAW forbade his followers from hurrying towards the prayer <i>Saf</i> even though <i>solat</i> has begun. Imam Al-Bukhari recorded a narration by Abu Qatada RA who said, "When we were performing <i>solat</i> together with Rasulullah SAW, suddenly he heard some commotion from among the congregation.</p>
23	<p>After the <i>solat</i> was concluded, Rasulullah SAW said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">مَا شَأْنُكُمْ ! قَالُوا ; اسْتَعْجَلْنَا إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ , قَالَ ; فَلَا تَفْعَلُوا إِذَا آتَيْتُمُ الصَّلَاةَ , فَعَلَيْكُمْ بِالسَّكِينَةِ فَمَا أَدْرَكْتُمْ فَصَلُّوا , وَمَا فَاتَكُمْ فَأَتِمُّوا</p>
24	<p><b>Which means:</b> "What happened to you?" They answered, "We were rushing for the <i>solat</i>." Rasulullah SAW admonished them, "Do not be in a hurry. When you come for <i>solat</i>, walk calmly, and for the <i>rakaat</i> that you have time to perform together, do it and for the <i>rakaat</i> that you have missed, complete it later."</p>



25	<b>Sixth:</b> Perform the supplementary but highly encouraged <i>solat Tahiyatul Masjid</i> before sitting down.
26	Al-Bukhari R.A recorded that Abu Qaradah RA narrated the words of Rasulullah SAW, who was reported to have said:  <p style="text-align: center;">إِذَا دَخَلَ أَحَدُكُمْ الْمَسْجِدَ فَلْيَرْكَعْ رُكْعَتَيْنِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَجْلِسَ</p> <b>Which means:</b> "When any one of you enters the mosque, he should pray two raka'at before he sits."
27	<b>Seventh:</b> Be aware of your surroundings when walking in the mosque, lest you may cross in front of people who are performing their <i>solat</i> .
28	Imam Al-Bukhari recorded a narration by Abu Juhaim RA, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said,  <p style="text-align: center;">لَوْ يَعْلَمُ الْمَارُّ بَيْنَ يَدَيْ الْمُصَلِّيِّ مَاذَا عَلَيْهِ لَكَانَ أَنْ يَقِفَ أَرْبَعِينَ خَيْرًا لَهُ مِنْ أَنْ يَمُرَّ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ</p>
29	<b>Which means:</b> "If the person who passed in front of the person performing the <i>solat</i> knew how much sin he had committed, it would have been better for him to wait for forty years than to pass in front of him."
30	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> To end the sermon on this auspicious day, a few conclusions may be drawn:  <b>First:</b> Observe the proper etiquette and manners while in the mosque, as taught by Rasulullah SAW.  <b>Second:</b> Avoid behaviour that could tarnish the sanctity of the mosque, such as encouraging hostilities, abandoning new-born babies, damaging the facilities, dressing indecently, dirtying the mosque and so on.



	<p><b>Third:</b> If we were a host, we would surely welcome guests who are at their best behaviour into our homes. Similarly, when we visit the house of Allah SWT, try to be a well-mannered guest.</p>
31	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah al-Tawbah, verse 17:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>مَا كَانَ لِلْمُشْرِكِينَ أَنْ يَعْمُرُوا مَسْجِدَ اللَّهِ شَاهِدِينَ عَلَىٰ أَنْفُسِهِمْ بِالْكَفْرِ أُولَٰئِكَ حِطَّتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ وَفِي النَّارِ هُمْ خَالِدُونَ ﴿١٧﴾</p>
32	<p><b>Which means:</b> “It is not for the polytheists to maintain the mosques of Allah [while] witnessing against themselves with disbelief. [For] those, their deeds have become worthless, and in the Fire they will abide eternally.”</p>
33	<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>