



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">TEACHERS AS NATION BUILDERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH TEACHER'S DAY 2017 12 May 2017AD / 15 Syaaban 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 تُفْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ ﴿٢﴾</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, In this glorious moment, let us together work to improve ourselves by increasing the level of our faith and conviction in Allah SWT. Let us strive to perform all His commands and avoid all that He has prohibited from pursuing. May the grace and pleasure of Allah SWT always accompany those who seek to increase their conviction.</p>
8	<p>In conjunction with Teacher's Day which shall be celebrated on 16th of May, the <i>mimbar</i> today shall present a sermon entitled "Teachers as Nation Builders".</p>
9	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p>



	<p>When discussing about teachers, we would definitely recall the times we had with them. No matter if it was a moment of joy, or sorrow, there would always be memories which we cannot forget. Their toil, tears and laughter accompany our success today. Without our teachers, we might still be illiterate and devoid of beneficial knowledge today.</p>
10	<p>Through the years, there surely would have been teachers who served and sacrificed to educate their nations' youths. Going back in time, teachers have always been known to play a key role in any civilization.</p>
11	<p>Islamic civilization had many influential scholars who once led and expanded knowledge, such as Al-Ghazali, Al-Bukhari, Al-Nawawi, Al-Suyuti and many others. They succeeded as teachers in their respective fields, alleviated the people from ignorance, and helped them to achieve glory instead. In fact, their work remains a source of reference for modern generations today.</p>
12	<p>If we talk about teachers being eternal idols, Rasulullah SAW would be an excellent role model. Allah SWT paid tribute to him.</p>
13	<p>through His words in Surah Al-Jumuah, verse 2:</p> <p>هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ ﴿٢﴾</p>
14	<p>Which means: "It is He who has sent among the unlettered, a Messenger from among themselves, reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and wisdom - although they were before in clear error."</p>
15	<p>Prophet Muhammad SAW has proven that he could transform the ignorant Arabs who were a nation of illiterates, barbarians, backward and tribal in nature, into a developed nation, civilized and united. He was a teacher who should be admired, a teacher who was successful in all aspects. In fact, Rasulullah SAW's master stroke in education is a source of reference for developing future generations.</p>



16	<p>What was Rasulullah SAW's amazing secret to success in the field of education? Of course, his success was mainly due to the teachings he delivered being knowledge that came direct from Allah SWT. But, in addition, his determination and sincerity in imparting knowledge were the backbone of his success in all his efforts.</p>
17	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Some of us assume that the role of a teacher is confined only to the classroom. The truth is far from the reality of a teacher's task. If we scrutinise carefully, the role of a teacher covers all aspects. From the point of responsibility, teachers have been tasked to educate, to impart knowledge and to train students to practice what they have learnt.</p>
18	<p>Teachers are also like parents to their students. At times, teachers have had to be involved in helping to solve students' personal problems. This is to ensure that problems faced by such students would not impede their learning. In the community, teachers act as inspiration for the next generation of leaders who will lead and develop the religion, race and nation.</p>
19	<p>However, looking at today's reality, we feel aggrieved when teachers are often targets of accusations from insensitive parents. Wild accusations are easily hurled at teachers and the school when their child is punished. Keep in mind that, while in school, teachers would take over the responsibility of parents of such students.</p>
20	<p>So, it is natural for students to be punished for offenses they committed, for their own good. No doubt there are a few isolated cases of teachers who abuse their positions. Sadly, the proverb '<i>one bad apple spoils the barrel</i>' rings true.</p>
21	<p>Such isolated incidents should not be used as the reason to put other teachers in bad light. Most other teachers are sincere in carrying out their responsibilities for the sake of their student. The time they sacrifice, day and night, including weekends, is proof of their dedication to serve the youths of the nation.</p>



22	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Some of our teachers may still be alive, while some others may have passed on. But, their services and deeds will never be forgotten. We who have succeeded, are still expecting teachers to educate our children now.</p>
23	<p>Therefore, the <i>khatib</i> would like to remind everyone here today on a number of matters which we could do to appreciate the deeds and sacrifices of teachers:</p>
24	<p>First: Remind our children to respect their teachers. Advise them to watch their words and display appropriate behaviour when they are with their teachers. Give <i>salam</i>, or greet teachers courteously as a sign of respect. Pay full attention during classes and watch your manners in order for your knowledge to be blessed. Acts that display disrespect, such as sleeping, chatting and playing when the teacher is teaching would result in the loss of blessings over what has been taught. A person who strives to gain knowledge would have his journey to heaven be made easier.</p>
25	<p>Rasulullah SAW once said in a hadith recorded by Imam Muslim <i>rahimahullah</i> and narrated by Abu Hurairah, as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَمَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَتَمَسَّ فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ</p>
26	<p>Which means: "Allah makes the way to Jannah easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge."</p>
27	<p>Second: Ensure that children are always disciplined and abide by rules set in schools. We need to monitor our children with regards to coming early to school, shunning gangsterism and vandalism, dressing properly and appropriately, and not violating rules and regulations set by the school.</p>
28	<p>Third: Students also need to be concerned and show affection towards teachers. If their teachers need help, be quick to assist. In addition, celebrate Teacher's Day on May 16 each year. Show them the appreciation and respect they deserve.</p>



29	If there is a teacher who encounters a misfortune, make haste in visiting them and offer them words of encouragement. For teachers who have left us, pray that they be rewarded appropriately for all their invaluable past service and deeds to us. Take advantage of all the knowledge they have passed to us, for that is a form of continuous blessings to them.
30	as mentioned in the hadith narrated by Abu Hurairah RA and recorded by At-Tirmidhi, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said: إِذَا مَاتَ الْإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَمَلُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثٍ صَدَقَةٌ جَارِيَةٌ وَعِلْمٌ يَنْتَفَعُ بِهِ وَوَلَدٌ صَالِحٌ يَدْعُو لَهُ
31	<i>“When a human being dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge, and a righteous child who prays for him.”</i>
32	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, To conclude the sermon on this glorious day, let us reflect upon the takeaways from it: First: Teachers are individuals who sacrifice continuously for the good of their students. Their tears and laughter accompany our every success today. Second: The tasks and duties of teachers are not limited in class only, but goes beyond their professionalism and humanity, to the point that it involves society and civilization. Third: Give due respect to teachers through our good manners and behaviour, as well as avoiding acts that could put additional burden upon them.
33	As stated by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Anbia', verse 7:



	<p>أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ إِلَّا رِجَالًا نُوْحِي إِلَيْهِمْ فَسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ</p> <p></p>
34	<p>Which means: “And We sent not before you, [O Muhammad], except men to whom We revealed [the message], so ask the people of the message if you do not know.”</p>
35	<p>بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلْ 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>