

1	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S BLESSINGS <i>In Conjunction with the Beginning of Ramadhan</i> 26 May 2017AD / 29 Syaaban 1438H</p> </div>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">الحمد لله الذي علم وأنعم، وهدانا بالقرآن التي هي أقوم،</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">قال تعالى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۖ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَيْتُمْ وَلِعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَىٰ نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَفْلِحُونَ.</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, On this blessed day, let us take this opportunity to enhance our conviction in Allah SWT. Let us strive to fulfil the commands and instructions of Allah SWT, and at the same time avoid all that has been forbidden and disallowed by Him. May we all be raised among those who are faithful on the Day of Judgement.</p>
8	<p>After waiting a year for its arrival, it is now returning to us, accompanied with an abundance of grace, blessings and mercy of Allah SWT. A blessed</p>



	“ <i>Ramadan al-Mubarak</i> ” wishes for all members of the congregation here today.
9	Accordingly, the sermon today is entitled, “ <i>Abundance Of God’s Blessings</i> ”.
10	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, The blessings of Allah SWT has a broad meaning, covering every gift and grace Allah SWT has bestowed upon all His creations in the universe. It is not limited to certain times only. In fact, it is continuous. Blessings and graces are the prerogative of Allah SWT. No one can offer or withhold it other than Allah SWT.
11	This is based on the words of Allah SWT in Surah Fatir, verse 2: مَا يَفْتَحُ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا وَمَا يُمْسِكُ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ
12	Which means: “ <i>Whatever Allah grants to people of mercy - none can withhold it; and whatever He withholds - none can release it thereafter. And He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.</i> ”
13	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Allah SWT has chosen the month of Ramadan to bestow an abundance of His blessings, even more than in the other months. So much so that when Ramadan arrives, Muslims around the world hope and pray to Allah SWT that they would be given the opportunity to be alive throughout the month. The feeling of longing, entwined with yearning, fills their souls. It is the time to look forward to.
14	The arrival of Ramadan provides a broad and open chance for Muslims to live a life of worship and penitence for Allah SWT. Allah SWT celebrates and rewards His servants during this month by providing different benefits compared to the other eleven (11) months.
15	This wonderful news regarding Allah SWT’s blessing was delivered by the Prophet Muhammad SAW to all his followers. Although such blessings are



	neither visible nor tangible to humans, but through listening and learning about them, it is enough for us to imagine how Allah SWT truly celebrates His servants during Ramadhan.
16	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, The reality today is that there are a lot of people who are busy taking advantage of Ramadan to increase their worldly possessions. Some are willing to fight to gain a spot to do business through wrongdoings, corruption and fraud. They seem to forget that the sort of property and provisions that really counts are those for the Hereafter. There are some who are too busy with their businesses that they neglect prayers and other duties. It is true that our religion does not forbid the accumulation of worldly wealth, but at the same time, Islam teaches us to prioritise the Hereafter.
17	Apart from that, there are many Muslims who diligently perform good deeds and increase their acts of worship with the arrival of Ramadan, especially at the beginning. Unfortunately, it tends to be somewhat 'seasonal'. Some would fail to continue performing the acts of worship and good deeds. In fact, many would give up towards the end of Ramadhan.
18	In this matter, Rasulullah SAW advised his followers to be moderate in charity and good deeds and encouraged consistency.
19	Imam al-Bukhari recorded a narration from 'Aishah R.A. where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said: خُذُوا مِنَ الْعَمَلِ مَا تُطِيقُونَ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَمَلُّ حَتَّى تَمَلُّوا، وَأَحَبُّ الصَّلَاةِ إِلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَا دُوِّمَ عَلَيْهِ وَإِنْ قَلَّتْ، وَكَانَ إِذَا صَلَّى صَلَاةً دَاوِمًا عَلَيْهِ.
20	Which means: "You must only perform deeds that you can do. By Allah, He will not withhold from you until you give up. The most beloved religion to Allah is one that is performed regularly. And the prayers most favoured by Rasulullah SAW is the one practiced regularly, even in small amounts and when Rasulullah SAW performs a supplementary prayer, he performs it regularly."



21	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, As Muslims who consider themselves lucky and grateful for receiving an abundance of blessings and graces bestowed by Allah SWT, we must fill the month of Ramadan with a variety of beneficial deeds. What a waste if such blessed time is spent sleeping, playing, talking and watching television.</p>
22	<p>Imam al-Tabarani r.h recorded a narration by Jabir R.A., where Rasullulah SAW related that Jibril AS had said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">يَا مُحَمَّدُ مَنْ أَدْرَكَ شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ، فَمَاتَ، فَلَمْ يُغْفَرْ لَهُ، فَأُدْخِلَ النَّارَ، فَأَبْعَدَهُ اللَّهُ، قُلْ آمِينَ، فَقُلْتُ : آمِينَ.</p>
23	<p>Which means: "O Muhammad, whoever reaches the month of Ramadan and he dies and is not forgiven, then he will enter Hellfire and Allah will cast him far away, so say Amīn. And I said: Amīn."</p>
24	<p>Therefore, the <i>khatib</i> would like to take this opportunity to advise the congregation today to be prepared to reap the blessings and graces of Allah SWT during Ramadan. Grab the opportunity from the beginning of Ramadan without delay, as continued hesitation will cause us to be negligent.</p>
25	<p>Preparations should be made with respect to our knowledge, physique and soul. A greater knowledge will ensure quality in one's worship, while body and mental health will contribute to the quantity of one's worship.</p>
26	<p>Grab the chance to perform <i>tarawih</i> prayers which are expected to start tonight. Remember, <i>tarawih</i> prayers are performed only during the month of Ramadan. In addition, perform other acts of worship, such as reciting the al-Quran, praising Allah SWT, multiplying our contributions to the needy, performing <i>Qiyamullail</i> (Night Prayers), <i>Du'a</i> (supplication) and so on. If we are not able to fill the days of Ramadan with prayers and worship, at least we should refrain from committing sins and useless matters.</p>
27	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p>



	<p>During breaking of fast, the <i>mimbar</i> would like to remind the congregation to practice moderation and to avoid wastage. Above all, when buying food at Ramadan bazaars, choose a dish that is <i>halal</i>, good, clean and safe. Buy from traders who practice good hygiene such as those with clean clothes, short nails and tidy hair.</p>
28	<p>Remember, when we fast, our body will feel tired. Therefore, choose food that can foster health and replenish energy in order to enable us to perform our acts of worship with reverence and perfection. For those who break their fast at hotels, choose a hotel that has a Halal certificate recognized by the authorities.</p>
29	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>To conclude today's sermon, the <i>khatib</i> would like to present some takeaways as reflection and reminder for all of us:</p> <p>First: Allah SWT has honoured the month of Ramadan by bestowing it with an abundance of blessings and graces, compared to other months.</p> <p>Second: Muslims should seize the opportunity bestowed by Allah SWT to multiply their good deeds and avoid all forms of vices.</p> <p>Third: Be resolute and steadfast in the worship of Allah SWT at all times, not only during the month of Ramadhan.</p>
30	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah al-Baqarah, verses 183 to 184:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾ أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ فَمَن كَانَ مِنكُم مَّرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ</p>



	<p>مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ فِدْيَةٌ طَعَامُ مَسْكِينٍ فَمَن تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّهُ، وَأَن تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾</p>
31	<p>Which means: “O, you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may (learn) self-restraint. (Fasting) for a fixed number of days; but if any of you is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed number (Should be made up) from days later. For those who can do it (With hardship), is a ransom, the feeding of one that is indigent. But he that will give more, of his own free will - it is better for him. And it is better for you that you fast, if you only knew.”</p>
32	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَزِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلَ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، بِرِحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.</p>