



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">RETURN YOUR HEART TO THE MOSQUE 21 July 2017AD / 27 Syawal 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، مُحَمَّدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينَهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ 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 style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَأَنَّ الْمَسْجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا</p> 
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Faith and conviction are two of the most important factors that must exist in human beings in order to survive in this world and in the hereafter. Faith and conviction are the safeguards that can prevent us from falling into the valley of sin and disgrace. Therefore, increase the level of our faith and conviction by performing all the commands of Allah SWT and by keeping away from all that He has prohibited us from doing. May our obedience to Allah SWT enable us to eventually experience the joy of an eternal Paradise.</p>
8	<p>On this blessed Friday, the <i>khatib</i> would like to invite members of the congregation to reflect on a sermon entitled: "Return Your Heart To The Mosque".</p>



9	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>The mosque is a holy, noble and respected house of Allah SWT. It is a place of worship for Muslims, a center for social and economic activity, as well as a place to gain knowledge, and so forth. The mosque is also a symbol of unity for Muslims. Regardless of political differences, status, standing or skin color, Muslims stand equal, as a congregation, in a single <i>saf</i> to perform prayers as proof of this unity.</p>
10	<p>It is a fact that in the Federal Territories, we can observe how the mosques are always organising various religious and social activities. Seminars, talks and classes are held almost daily to fill us with religious knowledge.</p>
11	<p>In addition, community programs, such as assistance for the poor and orphans, are organised to ensure that no Muslim would feel left out or cast aside.</p>
12	<p>Free tuition programs for students and school children also help to alleviate the burden of poor parents.</p>
13	<p>The question is, should the duty of organising activities in the house of Allah SWT fall only upon the shoulders of mosque administrations? The answer is certainly not. It is our responsibility as the faithful to also enliven the mosques</p>
14	<p>in line with the words of Allah SWT in verse 18 of Surah At-Taubah:</p> <p>إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسْجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَأَتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَنْ يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ</p>
15	<p>Which means: “The mosques of Allah SWT are only to be maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day and establish prayer and give zakah and do not fear except Allah SWT, for it is expected that those will be of the [rightly] guided.”</p>



16	Based on the verse above, it is clear that the task and responsibility of organising activities for the houses of Allah SWT rests upon all our shoulders, the believers and the faithfuls.
17	It would be very unfortunate indeed if the millions of Muslims in the Federal Territories are somehow unable to organise activities in the mosques around us!
18	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Various benefits can be obtained by those who are steadfast in going to the mosque, and among them are: First: Increasing our knowledge. When we are knowledgeable, Allah SWT will make it easy for us to enter Paradise. Even the angels look up to the people who are present at such activities or events.
19	Imam Tirmidhi rahimahullah recorded the hadith narrated by Abu Darda' RA, in which Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said: مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَبْتَغِي فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَلَكَ اللَّهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ وَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَتَضَعُ أجنحتها لِطالِبِ العِلْمِ رِضًا بما يَصْنَعُ. (رواه الترمذي)
20	Which means: "Whoever travels to seek knowledge, Allah shall provide a way for him to Paradise And indeed, the angels spread their wings for joy to those who seek knowledge."
21	Second: Earning the rewards of Paradise. The reward is stated in a hadith recorded by Imam al-Bukhari rahimahullah and narrated by Abu Hurairah RA, in which Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said: مَنْ غَدَا إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ وَرَاحَ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُ نَزْلًا مِنْ الْجَنَّةِ كُلَّمَا غَدَا أَوْ رَاحَ. (رواه البخاري) Which means: "Whoever goes to the mosque in the morning and evening, then Allah will prepare for him a place in Paradise for every morning and evening he goes."



22	<p>Third: Eradicating sins and raising our standing. Imam Muslim rahimahullah recorded a hadith which was narrated by Abu Hurairah RA, in which Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p>مَنْ تَطَهَّرَ فِي بَيْتِهِ ثُمَّ مَشَى إِلَى بَيْتٍ مِنْ بُيُوتِ اللَّهِ لِيَقْضِيَ فَرِيضَةً مِنْ فَرَائِضِ اللَّهِ كَانَتْ خَطْوَتَاهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تُحُطُّ خَطِيئَةً وَالْأُخْرَى تَرْفَعُ دَرَجَةً. (رواه مسلم)</p>
23	<p>Which means: "Whoever cleanses himself in his home, then he goes to the mosque to perform one of the five daily prayers, then Allah SWT rewards every step he takes towards the mosque by removing minor sins and elevates him a degree in standing."</p>
24	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Let us work together to make the mosque the center for Muslims, where all issues, problems and matters pertaining to the people are discussed under one roof.</p>
25	<p>Look at, and follow, how the mosque had functioned during the time Rasulullah SAW was in Madinah. Rasulullah SAW made the mosque not only as a place of worship, but also as a place of learning and for spreading knowledge</p>
26	<p>a place to discuss and solve the problems of the people, a place to put forth strategies, as well as a place to receive visits from foreign delegations, and many others.</p>
27	<p>To those who manage mosques, aspire to make the houses of Allah SWT to be more people-friendly. Be diligent in organising daily as well as periodic activities and programs, rather than focusing only on the significant days in the Islamic calendar.</p>
28	<p>Additionally, ensure the programs organised do not focus on just one particular group. Celebrate everyone, including the disabled, and also new converts to the religion.</p>



29	As for the public, let us strive to attend such gatherings of knowledge held at the mosque in order to increase our religious knowledge. Besides that, do also attend other useful programs organised by the mosques, as part of our responsibility in prospering the house of Allah SWT.
30	Allah SWT stated in Surah Al-Maidah verse 2: <p>وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا نَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ</p>
31	Which means: “And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah ; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty.”
32	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, To conclude the sermon today, the <i>khatib</i> would like to invite the congregation to reflect upon the following takeaways: First: Enlivening the mosque is the responsibility of all of us and not just the administrators of the mosque. Second: Mosques should be the focal point for Muslims in all matters, exactly like the role of the mosque during the time of Rasulullah SAW. Third: As stated by Rasulullah SAW, there are numerous advantages in going to the mosque or being at a mosque, which should act as incentives for Muslims to enliven the house of Allah SWT.
33	As decreed by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Hadid verse 21: <p>أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p>



	<p>سَابِقُونَ إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا كَعَرْضِ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ أُعِدَّتْ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ ۗ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ ﴿٢١﴾</p>
34	<p>Which means: “Race toward forgiveness from your Lord and a Garden whose width is like the width of the heavens and earth, prepared for those who believed in Allah and His messengers. That is the bounty of Allah which He gives to whom He wills, and Allah is the possessor of great bounty.”</p>
35	<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>