

1	<p style="text-align: center;">NEIGHBOURLY VIRTUES 20 October 2017AD / 29 Muharram 1439H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ 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>قَالَ تَعَالَى: وَأَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا^ط وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَبِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ بِالْجَنبِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ^ط إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ مَنْ كَانَ مُخْتَالًا فَخُورًا ﴿٣٦﴾</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Let us increase the level of our conviction in Allah SWT by performing all His commands and striving hard to avoid all that He has prohibited. May we always be protected by our faith and be rewarded with success in this world and in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>The <i>mimbar</i> on this day will talk about “Neighbourly Virtues”.</p>
9	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p>



	It is natural for human beings to have the need to live in a community, or within a neighbourhood, as we tend to rely on each other in our life. It is impossible for a human being to live alone
10	Without socialising with others, even though he is a very wealthy and educated person.
11	In a hadith recorded by Ibn Hibban and narrated by Saad bin Abi Waqas regarding the importance of neighbours, Rasulullah SAW once said: أَرْبَعٌ مِنَ السَّعَادَةِ : الْمَرْأَةُ الصَّالِحَةُ ، وَالْمَسْكَنُ الْوَاسِعُ ، وَالْجَارُ الصَّالِحُ ، وَالْمَرْكَبُ الْهَيِّئُ ، وَأَرْبَعٌ مِنَ الشَّقَاوَةِ : الْجَارُ السُّوءُ ، وَالْمَرْأَةُ السُّوءُ ، وَالْمَسْكَنُ الضَّيِّقُ ، وَالْمَرْكَبُ السُّوءُ
12	Which means: “Four things are part of happiness: a righteous spouse, a spacious dwelling, a righteous neighbour, and a comfortable means of transport. Four things are part of misery: a bad neighbour, a bad spouse, a restrictive dwelling, and a bad means of transport.”
13	This hadith clearly mentions the advantages of a good neighbour as a sign of happiness. Remember, Rasulullah SAW himself is the best example for us with regards to neighbourly virtues.
14	Let us appraise ourselves on how much we have done for our neighbours until today.
15	Have we safeguarded the rights of our neighbours as much as we want them to safeguard our rights as their neighbours? In reality, good neighbourly practices has evaded us.
16	Perhaps some of us do not even know who our neighbours are. This is the current reality of living in a neighbourhood.
17	There are neighbours who do not acknowledge each other even though they have lived as neighbours for a long time. Therefore, let us endeavour to bridge the relationship with our neighbours. Start with greetings and salutations,



18	Offering assistance when needed and sharing experiences about family and life.
19	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Let us reflect on the meaning of verse 36, in Surah an-Nisa, where Allah SWT declared:</p> <p>وَأَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا^ط وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَبِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ بِالْجَنبِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ^ظ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ مَن كَانَ مُخْتَالًا فَخُورًا ﴿٣٦﴾</p>
20	Which means: “Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbour, the neighbour farther away, the companion at your side, the traveller, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful.”
21	From that verse, it is clear that among the characteristics of the believers are those who have close relationships with their neighbours. Therefore, let us strive to maintain the manners and neighbourly rights
22	As taught by Islam, by taking the following steps: First: <i>Always smile, greet and give salutations.</i> A person who smiles easily and care about their neighbours will usually be approachable.
23	This practice will ensure good neighbourly relations. A good neighbour will not hurt his neighbours either through speech or deed.
24	Second: <i>Assist neighbours in trouble.</i> It is one of the rights of a Muslim upon his other Muslim brother. In fact it is one of the greatest rights of our neighbours.
25	Reflect upon a hadith from Rasulullah SAW, as recorded by Imam Muslim and narrated by Abu Hurairah RA:



	<p>مَنْ نَفَّسَ عَنِ مُؤْمِنٍ كُرْبَةً مِنْ كُرْبِ الدُّنْيَا نَفَّسَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ كُرْبَةً مِنْ كُرْبِ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ</p>
26	<p>Which means: "Whoever releases a believer from the difficulties or distress of the world, then Allah SWT will free him from the difficulties of the Day of Judgment."</p>
27	<p>Third: Protecting the honour and virtue of our neighbours as well as continuously doing good.</p>
28	<p>A good person would not betray his neighbour by slandering or disclosing confidential information and shortcomings of his neighbour to others. In fact, in terms of neighbourly manners, we are the ones who should defend the dignity of our neighbours if they are defamed or harassed.</p>
29	<p>This was stated in a hadith recorded by Imam al-Bukhari and narrated by Abu Syuraih al-`Adawi, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p>مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيُكْرِمْ جَارَهُ</p> <p>Which means: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him glorify his neighbour"</p>
30	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, According to Sheikh Dr. Abdul Aziz Fauzan in his book "<i>Fiqh al-Ta`amul Ma'an Nas</i>", the Shari'ah has outlined three types of neighbours, namely Muslim neighbours who are also blood relatives,</p>
31	<p>Muslim neighbours who are not blood relatives and non-Muslim neighbours. The difference between them is that the neighbours in the first category have three rights to be fulfilled,</p>
32	<p>Namely their Islamic rights, family rights and neighbourly rights. As for neighbours in the second category, there are two rights, namely Islamic rights and neighbourly rights, while the non-Muslim neighbours have only one right, which is neighbourly rights.</p>



33	<p>Be kind to your neighbours. Avoid conflicts or negative perceptions in our daily life. Living in a neighbourhood needs mutual cooperation and understanding in order to achieve community harmony and happiness. As the Malay proverb goes, "<i>Bulat air kerana pembetung, bulat manusia kerana muafakat</i>" which is literally translated into English as "<i>Water is shaped by its container, people are shaped by consensus</i>".</p>
34	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>The conclusions that can be derived from this Friday's <i>mimbar</i> are as follows:</p> <p>First: In Islam, honouring the neighbour is regarded as one of the signs of faith in Allah SWT and the Hereafter.</p> <p>Second: Appreciate your neighbours by always enquiring about their wellbeing and thanking them for their good graces</p> <p>Third: Protect our environment by avoiding activities that could result in destruction and pollution.</p>
35	<p>As declared by Allah SWT in Surah al-Rahman, verse 60:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  هَلْ جَزَاءُ الْإِحْسَانِ إِلَّا الْإِحْسَانُ </p> <p>Which means: "Is there any Reward for Good - other than Good?"</p>
36	<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</p> <p>اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>