

## AVOIDING THE CORRUPTION CULTURE

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ  
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ  
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ  
وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ  
أَجْمَعِينَ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Although billions of Ringgits has been seized by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), still many people were not convinced of the dangers of corruption until the government declared that corruption was the number one enemy replacing the old slogan for drugs. This is worrisome because the parties involved, either the giver or receiver of corruption, do not understand that it is forbidden and considered a despicable action in Islam.

Let us all stay away from corruption because Allah the Almighty has forbidden it as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 2 (Surah Al-Baqarah), verse (ayat) 188:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ

بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨٨﴾

Which means: *And do not eat up your property among yourselves for vanities, nor use it as bait for the judges, with intent that ye may eat up wrongfully and knowingly a little of (other) people's property.*

We should all be aware that all sales and purchases using money from corruption are also unlawful in Islam. Food, beverages, or clothing, which are permissible become unlawful if purchased using money from bribery. As a consequence, Allah the Almighty will not accept the prayers from someone who partakes in corruption directly or indirectly as mentioned by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Muslim:

وَمَطْعَمُهُ حَرَامٌ وَمَشْرَبُهُ حَرَامٌ وَمَلْبَسُهُ حَرَامٌ وَغُذِيَّ بِالْحَرَامِ فَأَنَّى يُسْتَجَابُ لِذَلِكَ

Which means: How can his prayer be answered when his food is unlawful (*haram*), his drink is unclean (*haram*), and his clothes are unclean (*haram*).

Do we have the heart to allow our family, children and spouse, to live and be fed with unlawful income?

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Islam places great importance on trust, especially among leaders, civil servants and even private sector workers. Those who hold office must understand that the rights and entitlements for them in the course of their duties are the specified wages or allowances. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Abu Daud:

مَنْ اسْتَعْمَلَنَا عَلَى عَمَلٍ فَرَزَقْنَاهُ رِزْقًا، فَمَا أَخَذَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَهُوَ غُلُولٌ

Which means: Whoever we have appointed to do a job with a fixed salary, then what is taken apart from his salary is *ghulul* (fraud).

Stay away from corruption and refrain from using a post for your own self-interest. Do not let greed corrupt us. Don't we realize that bribery is a traitor to the trust that is given to us? The Prophet (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

Which means: "*When trust is gone, then wait for the Hour of Destruction.*"

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us avoid bribery as it is vile, unlawful, and damaging to the whole community. In a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Malik, it is mentioned that the Prophet (peace be upon him) sent Abdullah ibn Rawahah to Khaibar to collect taxes for the dates harvested in the area occupied by the Jews. When Abdullah ibn Rawahah

was carrying out his duties, the Jews came to him with various ornaments as a bribe and said: "This jewelry is a gift to you so reduce the tax imposed on us."

Abdullah replied, "O Jews, By Allah you are indeed among His creatures who I hate the most. This action of yours increases my hatred towards you. The bribery you are offering is unlawful and we Muslims do not partake in it." Hearing the answer the Jews replied, "This (justice) is the reason the heavens and earth exist".

Remember that corruption negatively impacts the community by destroying justice because one's property, dignity, life and self can be purchased. Consequently, even a trustworthy, disciplined and honest society is no longer trusted because of corruption. Other than that, corruption endangers the public through collapsed buildings and bridges or landslides due to corrupt practices.

Worse than that, wealthy people will be safe from punishment while those who are poor and have no position will be punished. Is this not a sign of the destruction that is awaiting the society?

Let us together avoid corruption and support the actions of the local authorities to fight it at its grassroots. Hopefully we can live in harmony and enjoy the pleasure of Allah the Almighty. Let us finally ponder on the following verse which is taken from the Quran in Chapter 2 (Surah Al-Baqarah), verse (*ayat*) 172:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُلُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِلَّهِ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ

تَعْبُدُونَ ﴿١٧٢﴾

Which means: *O ye who believe! Eat of the good things that We have provided for you, and be grateful to Allah, if it is Him ye worship.*

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعْنِيْ وَايَاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ  
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ  
هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ  
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِيْنَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِيْنَ.