

## TRUE INDEPENDENCE

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 عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ  
صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمَلِكِ تَوْتِي الْمَلِكِ مِنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمَلِكِ مِمَّنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُعْزِزُ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ

بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٦٦﴾

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَأَيَّايَ 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,

Today we celebrate the 61st anniversary of the nation's independence in various ways. What is the meaning of independence? Some define independence as freedom from the colonization of foreign powers. Some also interpret it as freedom to do anything that comes to mind. Some say that independence means being grateful or satisfied with whatever we have despite no change for the better. We should ask ourselves whether that is a good definition for

the meaning of independence. In order to assess the true meaning of independence we need to know how Islam views independence.

Independence is one of the fundamental principles of Islamic Law. Islam sees freedom as a fundamental need for every human being. Independence for Muslims is believing that there is no God but Allah and Prophet Muhammad is His final messenger which means that we are freeing ourselves from worshipping anything other than Allah the Almighty. Therefore, Islam calls upon people to follow the path of *Sunnah Wal Jamaah* (true Islamic teachings) by liberating ourselves from misguidance, superstition and shirk to Allah the Almighty as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 12 (Surah Yusuf), verse (*ayat*)108:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
قُلْ هَذِهِ سَبِيلِي أَدْعُو إِلَى اللَّهِ عَلَى بَصِيرَةٍ أَنَا وَمَنِ اتَّبَعَنِي وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ  
الْمُشْرِكِينَ

Which means: *Say thou: "This is my way: I call (people) to Allah with full perception, both I and my followers. Pure is Allah; and I am not among those who associate partners with Allah."*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Some people think that being independent means they are free from all forms of legal and religious rulings such as legalizing LGBT, with the excuse that it is a human or individual right. This type of understanding is what makes some members of society lose guidance as they prioritize human logic over the law (*sharia*) of Allah the Almighty.

Islam does not reject a person's right to do something as long as it is done in order to seek the pleasure of Allah the Almighty and not purely to fulfill one's desire. Allah says in the Quran in Chapter 45 (Surah Al-Jathiyah), verse (*ayat*) 23:

أَفَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ وَأَضَلَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ وَخَتَمَ عَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِ وَغَشَّىٰ قَلْبَهُ وَجَعَلَ عَلَىٰ بَصَرِهِ غِشَاوَةً  
فَمَن يَهْدِيهِ مِن بَعْدِ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢٣﴾

Which means: *So, have you seen him who has taken his desires as his god, and Allah has let him go astray, despite having knowledge, and has sealed his ear and his heart, and put a cover on his eye? Now who will guide him after Allah? Still, do you not learn any lesson?*

In the context of an independent state, Islam has established that Islamic law is the highest rule of law that must be adopted in a nation administered by Muslims. The appointed leaders are given the trust to raise the status of Islam and to remove from it any form of foreign ideology or religious influences that are contrary to Islamic law. They should be more diligent in their efforts to uphold the Islamic law and to destroy the ignorance that opposes it. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 5 (Surah Al-Maidah), verse (ayat) 50:

أَفَحُكْمَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ يَبْغُونَ وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ مِنَ اللَّهِ حُكْمًا لِّقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ ﴿٥٠﴾

Which means: *Is it a judgment of the time of (pagan) ignorance that they are seeking? Who is better than Allah for judgment to a people who have certainty (in their belief)? Do they then seek after a judgment of (the days of) ignorance? But who, for a people whose faith is assured, can give better judgment than Allah?*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Remember that our struggle is not merely the freeing of our homeland. In conjunction with the celebration of independence this year, let us all liberate our soul, mind, behavior and culture from being directly influenced by ignorance or by misleading western thinking. Let us all be independent by practicing the true teachings of Islam. There is no meaning to our freedom if we act with poor manners. There is no meaning to our cheers of independence and waving of the flag if there is no longer any fighting spirit to defend our religion, race and country. How can we

be proud of our country's security and wealth when all it brings us is ignorance and transgressions? There is no point in building skyscrapers if Islam is not preserved. Let us be grateful of Allah's blessings and ponder on the following verse from the Quran in Chapter 34 (Surah Saba'), verse (ayat) 15:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

لَقَدْ كَانَ لِسَبَإٍ فِي مَسْكِنِهِمْ آيَةٌ جَنَّتَانِ عَنْ يَمِينٍ وَشِمَالٍ كُلُوا مِنْ رِزْقِ رَبِّكُمْ

وَأَشْكُرُوا لَهُ، بَلَدَةٌ طَيِّبَةٌ وَرَبٌّ غَفُورٌ ﴿١٥﴾

Which means: *There was for [the tribe of] Saba' in their dwelling place a sign [of Allah's generosity]: two [fields of] gardens on the right and on the left. [They were told], "Eat from the provisions of your Lord and be grateful to Him. A good land [have you], and a forgiving Lord."*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ 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، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ  
الرَّحِيمُ.