

**ANTI CORRUPTION DAY:
“CORRUPTION IS ABHORRED, DIGNITY IS PRESERVED”**

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 عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sister,

The history of corruption has begun since the beginning of human life and civilization. This ‘disease’ is constantly multiplying and occurs in tandem with the progress of life achieved by a society. No country in this world, including Islamic countries can declare that their country is free from corruption. Malaysian history has also proven that the fall of the Malacca’s Malay government was due to corruption. This clearly shows that the fall of a government is not necessarily due to defeat on the battlefield, but the fall of a government can be seen from the abusive attitude of the ruler in power to accumulate the wealth of the country in corrupted ways and the attitude of the society itself.

Corruption can occur and spread like termites eating a wooden house and if left untreated, the wooden house will eventually collapse. There are three main elements of corruption namely; power and trust that are abused. Both elements

occur due to weak organizational control and self-control in terms of faith and moral or ethics. The third element is the misuse of opportunity or opportunities for self-interest of one in power.

Corruption has two symptoms which are difficult to eradicate i.e. addiction and impact to the soul. Addiction towards corruption is like drug addiction which is difficult to be treated and cured. The only difference is that addiction towards corruption ends when a person no longer holds a position of power in an organization, department or ministry.

It should be noted that it is extremely difficult for someone who is addicted to corruption to stop this activity while still in power. What more if one is "friendly" with contractors, businessmen, gambling bosses, smugglers or bribers who give monthly bribes and these money are used for all sorts of payments such as car installations, home appliances, properties purchased or to meet the luxurious lifestyle one is accustomed to.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Corruption is strictly prohibited by Allah the Almighty and it is a great sin to be involved in such activity. Islamic law is strongly against corruption because not only is this act sinful, but it also involves elements of tyranny, oppression and misappropriation of the right of others. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 (surah Al-Baqarah) verse 188:

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

بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Which means: *And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it [in bribery] to the rulers in order that [they might aid] you [to] consume a portion of the wealth of the people in sin, while you know [it is unlawful].*

Dear brothers and sisters,

We find that many of those who are high-ranking and possess power are brave and resort to bribery despite numerous law enforcement such as arrests, prosecutions and penalties for corrupt criminal offences are in force. Due to their stubbornness and greedy attitude, these offenders are not afraid and disregard the law.

The need to strengthen integrity through religious and moral affiliation among civil servants, the private sector and the public is highly important and highly needed.

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Thobrani:

الرَّاشِي وَالْمُرْتَشِي فِي النَّارِ

Which means: *“The one who offers bribe and the one who receives it will enter hell.”*

Among the reasons that contribute to corruption is the loss of *ihsan* (Excellence in faith). *Ihsan* means one always feels that one is being observed by Allah the Almighty. The Prophet (pbuh) when asked about *ihsan* by the angel Jibrail said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

مَا الْإِحْسَانُ قَالَ : أَنْ تَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ كَأَنَّكَ تَرَاهُ، فَإِنْ لَمْ تَكُنْ تَرَاهُ فَإِنَّهُ يَرَاكَ

Which means: *"Ihsan is to worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you do not achieve this state of devotion, then (take it for granted that) Allah sees you."*

Based on this hadith, those who possess *ih-san* will always feel the presence of the Almighty and will be scared to do acts that are prohibited by Allah the Almighty.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The question is; in the case of bribery, why is it that we do not pay heed to what is *halal* (permitted) and what is *haram* (prohibited). Some muslims willingly buy halal food from money obtained through non halal means such as bribery. Do we realise that using non halal sources to pay for halal food means that the food is still considered as haram? Likewise, if a chicken is stolen and then slaughtered; its meat is still regarded as haram to be consumed. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi:

كُلُّ لَحْمٍ نَبَتَ مِنْ حَرَامٍ فَالْتَارُ أَوْلَى بِهِ

Which means: “Every meat (i.e. person) that was nourished with haram food is more deserving for the fire”.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Nevertheless, the responsibility of eliminating corruption does not lie solely on the Anti-Cruption Agency (SPRM), but it is the collective effort of the rulers, public servants and all levels of society.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 3 (surah Ali Imran) verse 104:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ

الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٠٤﴾

Which means: “And let there be [arising] from you a nation inviting to [all that is] good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful.”

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهُ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.