

PROTECTING OUR INDEPENDENCE
AUGUST 26, 2022 / 28 MUHARAM 1444M

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ 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 وَأُوصِيكُمْ 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,

One of the blessings given by Allah the Almighty to mankind is the blessing of independence. True independence for a Muslim is when he is free to devote his entire life solely to Allah the Almighty. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 6 (*Surah Al-An'am*) verses (*ayat*) 162-163.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٦٢﴾ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَبِذَلِكَ
أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿١٦٣﴾

Which means: “Say, ‘My prayers and sacrifice, my life and death, are all for Allah, Lord of all the Worlds; He has no partner. This is what I am commanded, and I am the first to devote myself to Him.’”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We do not deny that our country has become independent and free from colonial shackles physically. We are able to govern the country according to our own wishes without being influenced by other people or external forces. But do we realize that the colonial influence has not yet ended but only changed its form and nature? Now colonialism appears in a new and more dangerous form. Colonization today is under the guise of non-discrimination which tries to colonize the mind and culture of the community. The culture of our country, based on Islam which is the official religion, is threatened by global cultural colonization through hedonism and a lifestyle that promotes extreme freedom. Ways of thinking, speaking, dressing, eating, drinking and playing sports are influenced today by cultures that are contrary to Islam.

Let us not feel inferior when practicing Islamic cultures and practices. We should also feel proud to speak Malay because it is our mother tongue

and the official/national language of our country. We do not notice when businesses prioritize the use of English and other languages besides Malay when promoting themselves.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The enemies of Islam also claim that individual freedom is the absolute right of everyone and is not bound by civil laws or religious laws. A person is free to do anything as long as it does not interfere with the rights of others. We do not want Muslims in our country to be influenced by pluralism that states that all religions are equal or liberal beliefs that promote freedom without being bound by religious law. One example is the case of a mosque in Germany where prayers can be led by men or women and those who pray have a choice whether to cover their *aurat* (nakedness) or not. This mosque was built on the basis of religious freedom and human rights.

They try to influence Muslims to adopt an ignorant way of life that deviates from Islamic law (*jahiliyyah*). So let us not be fooled by their tricks. Caliph Umar al-Khattab has reminded us of the meaning of *jahiliyyah* by saying:

إِنَّمَا تُنْقَضُ عُرَى الْإِسْلَامِ عُرْوَةً عُرْوَةً، إِذَا نَشَأَ فِي الْإِسْلَامِ مَنْ لَمْ يَعْرِفِ الْجَاهِلِيَّةَ

Which means: *“The bonds of Islam will break down handhold by handhold when people are born in Islam without knowing al-Jahiliyyah (teachings that stray from Islam).”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In an effort to develop the economy of an independent country, we must have a workforce that has skills, integrity and is willing to struggle (*jihad*) in order to develop a country that does not depend solely on foreigners. A country can be colonized without the awareness of its people if they do not work on their own to develop their country.

Therefore, in conjunction with celebrating our country's independence this year, let us reflect together whether we are able to shoulder the responsibility of safeguarding our country's independence that we have enjoyed for so long. Let us fully benefit our independence by practicing all the demands and teachings of Islam individually, with our families and our society, by performing prayers in congregation, covering our *aurat*, attending knowledge gatherings, inviting people to do good and preventing bad. Practice good morals (*akhlak*), nurture the spirit of helping each other, avoid disputes that lead to division and ultimately lead to the destruction of our independence. Preserve the reins of leadership in our country so that it is always led by the faithful and pious Muslim Malays under the guidance of the Constitutional King, because leadership based on piety is the only one that will safeguard our independence.

Let us reflect on the words of Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 8 (*Surah Al-Anfal*) verse (*ayat*) 46:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ
وَأَصْبِرُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿٤٦﴾

Which means: “Obey Allah and His Messenger, and do not quarrel with one another, or you may lose heart and your spirit may desert you. Be patient: Allah is with the patient.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ
السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ،
وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،
فَأَسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.