

TRUE INDEPENDENCE

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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، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ قَارَ 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. Islam sees independence or freedom as a basic need for every human being. True independence for a Muslim is when he is free to devote his entire life solely to obeying Allah the Almighty. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 6 (*Surah Al-An'am*) verses (*ayat*) 162 to 163:

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ۗ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

Which means: “Say, ‘My prayers and sacrifice, my life and death, are all for God, 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 colonialism in our country has not yet ended but only changed its form and nature? Now colonization appears in a new and more dangerous form. Colonization under the guise of the principle of equality that tries to colonize the mind and culture of the community. The culture and customs of our country's society, which is based on Islam as the federal religion, is threatened through global cultural colonization based on excessive entertainment and unlimited freedom. The way of thinking, speaking, dressing, eating, drinking, playing sports and even matters of education are also patterned according to liberal ideology and secular thinking. The thinking of our society is also plagued by a sense of inferiority if Islamic culture and values are practiced. The Malay language is also tarnished by highlighting the greatness of foreign languages, causing some to be embarrassed when speaking in their own mother tongue.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Secular ideology and culture also suggest that individual freedom is the absolute right of everyone and is not bound by laws or religious teachings. A person is free to do anything as long as it does not interfere with the rights of others. A liberal mosque in Berlin, Germany was established in 2022, which allows anyone to attend prayer there regardless of race and country, allows congregations to be led by male or female *imams* and can even be led by two

imams; male and female simultaneously. An individual who performs the prayer can choose whether to cover their *aurat* or not. This mosque was built on the claim of freedom of human rights.

Through the secular ideology, liberals try to influence us to practice the *jahiliyyah* (ignorance) way of life in a modern form. Independent Muslims are people who know the past and modern *jahiliyyah*, so we may be guided and not stray from the right path. Caliph Umar Al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) has cautioned us of *jahiliyyah* behavior with his words:

إِنَّمَا تُنْقَضُ عُرَى الْإِسْلَامِ عُرْوَةٌ عُرْوَةٌ إِذَا نَشَأَ فِي الْإِسْلَامِ مَنْ لَمْ يَعْرِفِ الْجَاهِلِيَّةَ

Which means: Indeed, the bond of Islam will unravel one by one when there are people who live in Islam but do not know *Jahiliyyah*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Therefore, Muslim individuals and communities are truly free when they can free themselves from the grip of lust, negative and perverse thoughts, which consider Islam as an old and outdated religion; a religion that does not bring progress or is thought to be a stagnant and extremist religion.

In the context of economic development as an independent country, leaders and people should have their own capabilities and not only depend on foreign labor that indirectly contributes to various social problems in the country. Our country must have a workforce that is skilled, has integrity and is willing to fight for the development of the country. A country can be colonized without

realizing it if its people are unable to be the main leaders of economic development.

An independent Islamic country is a country that follows Islamic *Sharia* as a guide in all aspects. The leaders at every level are the people who are entrusted to govern and defend the religion of Islam and the welfare of the people under them. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 22 (*Surah Al-Hajj*) verse (*ayat*) 4:

كُتِبَ عَلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ مَنْ تَوَلَّاهُ فَأَنَّهُ يُضِلُّهُ وَيَهْدِيهِ إِلَىٰ عَذَابِ السَّعِيرِ

Which means: *It has been decreed for such devils that whoever takes them as a guide will be misguided and led by them into the torment of the Blaze.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In conclusion, let us make this independence celebration as a starting point to truly be independent. Beware of the new forms of colonization which are colonizing our way of thinking, way of life, culture, economy and politics apart from physical colonization. Celebrate this independence by improving knowledge, strengthening the economy and instilling love for the country among the people so that they are always willing to protect and defend it, in addition to practicing all the demands and teachings of Islam in themselves, their families and the society. Hold the reins of leadership of our country so that it is always led by trustworthy, faithful and pious leaders, because only leadership based on piety will safeguard true independence.

Let us be grateful for the blessings of independence and may Allah the Almighty forgive and reward the leaders and freedom fighters of the country. We also pray that our brothers and sisters in Palestine will taste the blessing of independence one day.

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