

PREPARE FOR A RAINY DAY

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الْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللّٰهِ 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 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. Surely, consciousness of God is the best provision to have a blessed life in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Natural disasters such as floods, landslides, etc. occur every year, especially during the monsoon season. The impact is great as it destroys property and takes lives. It is part of a test from Allah the Almighty to us as He says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) Verse (ayat) 155:

أَعُوذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ

Which means: *“We shall certainly test you with fear and hunger, and loss of property, lives, and crops. But [Prophet], give good news to those who are steadfast,”*

Believers believe that natural disasters happen by the will of Allah the Almighty. When a disaster strikes, we should be calm and patient in facing it and believe that there is good from the disaster. We should increase prayers because through prayer we hand over all our affairs to Allah the Almighty and hope only for His help. In a *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him [PBUH]) taught us to recite this supplication when a disaster strikes:

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ اللَّهُمَّ أَجْزِنِي فِي مُصِيبَتِي وَأَخْلِفْ لِي خَيْرًا مِنْهَا

Which means: *“We are from Allah and unto Him we return. O Allah take me out of my plight and bring to me after it something better.”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Although we believe that all calamities are the decree of Allah the Almighty, we are also required to prepare and not expose ourselves to disasters. A Malay proverb states to prepare an umbrella before the rain. Prophet Yusuf (may peace be upon him) asked the people of Egypt to cultivate crops diligently for seven years to prepare for drought. As a precautionary measure, we should all make appropriate preparations for the safety of ourselves, our families and our property before disasters occur. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) Verse (*ayat*)

195 which means: “...*do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands...*”

Therefore, let us keep ourselves and our family safe from danger and disaster. Avoid being in areas that are prone to disasters such as flood surges, landslides, etc. especially during the rainy season. Stock-up enough food so that our families do not suffer before we can get help. At the same time, keep important documents in a safe place. When a disaster such as a flood occurs, we should advise our families, especially young children and teenagers, not to play in flood water to avoid infectious diseases, drowning and electric shock. We should always obey the instructions of the authorities.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The occurrence of many natural disasters also reminds us to worry that it is one of the signs of the wrath of Allah the Almighty as it befell previous generations. The people of Prophet Noah, Prophet Salih, Prophet Lot, Prophet Moses and others were punished with natural disasters such as major floods, hurricanes and earthquakes because of their polytheism and sins. It is very sad because sins such as adultery, drinking alcohol, murder, cheating, corruption and others are occurring frequently today. In addition, people are indulging in hedonistic entertainment and in the pleasures of the world as if inviting the wrath of Allah the Almighty. Remember the words of Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 29 (*Surah Al-Ankabut*) Verse (*ayat*) 40:

Which means: “*and We punished each one of them for their sins: some We struck with a violent storm; some were overcome by a sudden blast; some We made the earth swallow; and some We drowned...*”

Therefore, let us all return to Allah the Almighty so that we may receive His mercy and be kept away from His wrath. Protect ourselves and our families from sins and *mazmumah* (negative) behavior. Let us increase prayers, repentance, *istighfar* (seeking forgiveness), *dhizkr* (remembering Allah), charity, helping each other and loving each other. Let us strive to pray congregationally at the mosque every day so that we may receive the love of Allah the Almighty.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Remember! Indeed, all calamities and disasters are from Allah the Almighty. We are required to make preparations such as stocking up on food items and keeping important documents in a safe place. Draw closer to Allah the Almighty and avoid sinning so that we are protected from calamities and disasters. Always practice the supplication taught by the Prophet (PBUH),

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُكَ مِنْ جَهْدِ الْبَلَاءِ وَدَرَكِ الشَّقَاءِ وَسُوءِ الْقَضَاءِ وَشَمَاتَةِ الْأَعْدَاءِ

Which means: “*I seek refuge in Allah from severe calamity, being overtaken by misery, evil destiny, and the triumphant mockery of enemies.*”

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

Which means: “Corruption has flourished on land and sea as a result of people’s actions and He will make them taste the consequences of some of their own actions so that they may turn back” (Quran 30:41).

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 وَاسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.