

INDEPENDENCE DAY

29 AUGUST 2025 /| 05 RABIULAWAL 1447H

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِيْنُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنْ شُرُوْر اَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ اَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللّٰهُ
فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ، وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ.
اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِيْنَ.
اَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اِنْفِقُوا اللّٰهَ وَاَوْصِيْكُمْ وَاِيَّايَ بِتَقْوٰى اللّٰهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُوْنَ.

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,

August 31, 1957 was our country's Independence Day. This joy must be celebrated with gratitude because it is very valuable. We must be grateful for our 68 years of independence because it grants us nobility and freedom on our own land. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 14 (Surah Ibrahim) Verse (ayat) 7:

اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيْمِ
وَإِذْ تَأَذَّنَ رَبُّكُمْ لَئِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ وَلَئِنْ كَفَرْتُمْ إِنَّ عَذَابِيْ لَشَدِيْدٌۭ۷

Which means: “Remember that He promised, “If you are thankful, I will give you more, but if you are thankless, My punishment is terrible indeed.””

Appreciating the meaning of independence is not just about understanding the hardships of colonialism. Any colonized nation desperately wants independence to the point of being willing to sacrifice and fight until the last drop of blood. We are indebted and grateful to the freedom fighters who consisted of Malay kings, scholars, leaders, educators and the people of that time. They sacrificed everything in order to achieve independence. This reveals the great meaning of the struggle for independence.

We must ask ourselves what independence means now? Islam itself means prosperity, peace and security. All of these meanings lead to the meaning of independence as we understand it today.

In a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ahmad and Ibn Hibban, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said during the Farewell Pilgrimage, which means: *“The Muslim is he from whose tongue and hand the Muslims are safe; and the believer is he whom men trust with their lives and their property. And the mujahid is he who strives with himself regarding obedience to Allah, and the muhajir is he who abandons transgressions and sins.”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Unity is the foundation of independence. This country consists of people from different backgrounds like a beautiful painting made of variety of colors which is envied by those who see it. The unification that is symbolized by the multiple colors has made us a picture that is not only beautiful but valuable for all of us. Division distorts independence because

without unity it is difficult for us to maintain independence which is a priceless blessing.

Let us ponder upon the words of Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 49 (*Surah Al-Hujurat*) Verse (*ayat*) 13:

Which Means: “People, We created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should recognize one another. In Allah’s eyes, the most honoured of you are the ones most mindful of Him: Allah is all knowing, all aware.”

Therefore, let us never be divided. Differences in views, skin colors and cultures can be a strength in nation building. We are all responsible for preserving our independence. This country is an *amanah* (trust) for all of us. We must not forfeit this trust because of our greed so that we betray this independent country. Corruption and abuse of power are the main enemies in an independent country. History has proven that Muslims will be stronger and more powerful when there is no betrayal, abuse of power or corruption.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us be grateful for the blessings of independence because an independent country enables well-organized education plans. Having a firm hold on faith, practicing Islamic *sharia* and having noble character are the foundations for building the *ummah* (community) and the country. Only with strong religious beliefs and skills in various fields of life will guarantee that the *ummah* is spared from the shackles of ignorance. We

must avoid heretical teachings, shirk to Allah the Almighty, extremist activities, and disputes that lead to division among Muslims.

Ignorance in religion also causes a person to be trapped in terrible moral issues such as adultery, incest, murder, corruption and abuse of power, drug addiction, gambling and drinking alcohol, involvement in hedonistic activities, etc.

Concluding today's *khutbah* (sermon), let us ponder the following lessons:

1. Muslims must realize that the blessing of independence is a gift from Allah the Almighty that must be defended by teaching what is right and forbidding what is wrong.
2. Muslims must unite to prevent victory for our enemies.
3. Muslims who betray the *amanah* of independence will cause the colonial era to repeat itself.
4. The younger generation must be educated to understand the true meaning of independence in accordance with the *Sharia* so that they are not colonized by a culture of immorality that invites disaster and the wrath of Allah the Almighty.

Let us be reminded by Allah the Almighty's command in the Quran in Chapter 22 (*Surah Al-Hajj*) Verse (*Ayat*) 41:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
الَّذِينَ إِنْ مَكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۚ
وَلِلَّهِ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ

Which means: “those who, when We establish them in the land, keep up the prayer, pay the prescribed alms, command what is right, and forbid what is wrong: Allah controls the outcome of all events.”

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.