

The Challenge of Preserving the Country's Sovereignty

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ 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 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,

In conjunction with the 103rd Malaysian Immigration Day celebration, today's *khutbah* (sermon) is titled; “The Challenge of Preserving the Country's Sovereignty”.

The sovereignty of the nation is a great gift from Allah the Almighty that needs to be fully protected and maintained. It is not just freedom from colonialism, but it includes freedom in creating policies, governing, maintaining the boundaries of the homeland, preserving the unity and sustainability of the people and defending the dignity of our religion, citizens and nation.

Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 22 (*Surah Al-Hajj*) verse (ayat) 41:

الَّذِينَ إِن مَّكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۗ وَلِلَّهِ عِصْمَةُ الْأُمُورِ

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

This verse clearly shows that the power and sovereignty given to believers are *amanah* (trusts) from Allah the Almighty, which must be used to uphold His *Sharia* (law), so that the country will remain in peace, prosperity and blessing.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, the challenge of preserving the sovereignty of the country not only comes from a military or political standpoint, but also from many other challenges involving physical safety and global crime. These include:

1. Human trafficking syndicates and migrant smuggling activities,
2. Illegal immigrants who are threats to employment opportunities and public safety,
3. Terrorist threats and cross-country crime,
4. Abuse of visit passes or work pass,
5. Online fraud syndicates involving foreigners,
6. Abuse of subsidized goods and more.

If we neglect these issues, we may lose the sovereignty that we have inherited, not through weapons, but through the internal weaknesses we have left

to fester. Therefore, the people must work together to assist security agencies, especially the Malaysian Immigration Department, in their efforts to curb and control all these threats. We should be the eyes and ears of the authorities by reporting offenses related to national security especially involving illegal immigrants.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In an effort to maintain the country's law, we cannot disregard security issues involving the smuggling of foreigners, especially illegal immigrants. Indeed, the Malaysian Immigration Department plays an important role as the country's main stronghold in protecting the sovereignty of our homeland from invasion, cross-border crime, and the increasing number of illegal immigrants that could threaten the country's social and economic order. The enforcement tasks carried out by the Immigration Department are not only administrative, but are done in pursuit of our overall well-being, which is demanded in Islam.

The tasks should be performed with integrity and *amanah* as mentioned in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ahmad:

Which Means: *"He who is not trustworthy has no faith, and he who does not keep his covenant has no religion."*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Muslims who love our country, let us respect, support, and not complicate enforcement tasks. Let us not conspire to protect illegal immigrants, or support any party that violates the law. In fact, the peace and prosperity we have today are the result of shared efforts to uphold truth and prevent evil.

Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 5 (*Surah Al-Ma'idah*) verse (ayat) 2:

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ..

Which means: “...*help one another to do what is right and good; do not help one another towards sin and hostility...*”

Therefore, all members of the community should work together to assist and cooperate with the authorities, especially the Malaysian Immigration Department, in addressing global security threats, especially those related to smuggling and crime committed by foreigners. Cooperation is essential for providing right and proper information to the Immigration Department so that appropriate action can be taken against irresponsible people.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To end today's *khutbah*, let us ponder upon its main points as a guidance for us in the future:

First: The security and stability of a country is very important and it is an *amanah* that always needs to be taken care of.

Second: It is the responsibility of every citizen to cooperate and work together in assisting the authorities to curb human trafficking, migrant smuggling, cross-border crime and other crime by providing information to authorities such as the Malaysian Immigration Department.

Third: All efforts that have been planned and carried out by the Malaysian Immigration Department in preserving the well-being of the country should be appreciated and assisted by the community.

Fourth: Enforcement tasks by the Immigration Department are noble tasks that must be performed with honesty, integrity and *amanah* so that the reputation of the country will not be tarnished.

Let us be reminded by the verse in the Quran in Chapter 3 (*Surah Ali Imran*), Verse (*ayat*) 200:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اصْبِرُوا وَصَابِرُوا وَرَابِطُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

Which means: “*You who believe, be steadfast, more steadfast than others; be ready; always be mindful of Allah, so that you may prosper.*”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ 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.