

PRESERVING OFFSPRING, LINEAGE and ANCESTRY
4 March 2022 / 1 Sya'aban 1443

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّهِ 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،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Him in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Islamic law strongly encourages its followers to get married in order to have children, preserve lineage and ancestry. Every child that is born will be recognized as legitimate if the marriage is carried out through proper islamic marriage contract (*akad nikah*) in accordance with the conditions of Islamic marriage law that has been set by Islamic law (*syarak*). On the other hand, any child who is born and does not meet the requirements of the Sharia, is categorized as an illegitimate child.

Islam is very concerned about preserving ancestry or lineage and that is why Islam forbids acts of immorality, namely adultery. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 17 (surah al Isra) verse 32:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الزَّوْجَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا ﴿٣٢﴾

Which means: *Do not go near adultery. It is truly a shameful deed and an evil way.*

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Dear brothers and sisters,

Illegitimacy of a child occurs due to several reasons and one of them is adultery. The 57th Fatwa Committee discussion of the National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs Malaysia decided that an illegitimate child is; a child born out of wedlock either as a result of adultery or rape and the child is not from legitimate intercourse or from a child of slavery. Secondly, a child born less than 6 months 2 *lahzah* (seconds) according to Qamariah calendar from the date of *tamkin* (intercourse).

According to National Registration Department records released in 2020, at least between 51,000 and 56,000 cases of illegitimate children are born each year or 150 cases a day.

Dear brothers and sisters

A majority of muslim jurists (*Jumhur Ulama*) agreed that an illegitimate child should not be bequeathed or adopted and bequeathed to the person who

caused the child's birth, for fear of the occurrence of illegal marriage contract and the encouragement of adultery. Islamic law warns us to always protect our ancestry and lineage.

An illegitimate child also does not have the right to receive inheritance, cannot be a *mahram*, and in fact the right of custody and sustenance is the responsibility of the child's mother and the child is family with his mother's side only.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The community needs to play a role so that cases of illegitimate children can be eradicated. Among them are; Muslims should frequent mosques by performing congregational obligatory prayers and listening to lectures, studying the Quran and reciting it all the time.

Parents should advise their children not to associate freely with individuals who are not mahrams. Take care of interactions in the family; girls should dress modestly in front of their mahram when at home.

Use telecommunication devices wisely and avoid looking at prohibited things. Always be in the know about our childrens' development especially our daughters.

Remember, Islam always tells us to do good things and to stay away from acts of immorality and abomination, to maintain self-dignity, ancestry and lineage so that our family life is safe and successful in this world and the hereafter.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 3 (surah Ali Imran) verse 104:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَتَكُنَّ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ

الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٤٤﴾

Which means: *Let there be a group among you who call 'others' to goodness, encourage what is good, and forbid what is evil—it is they who will be successful.*

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، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.