

CORRUPTION: A THREAT TO THE NATION
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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ 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،

فِيَا 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. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) verse (*ayat*) 188:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ
بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨٨﴾

Which means: *“Do not consume your property wrongfully, nor use it to bribe judges, intending sinfully and knowingly to consume parts of other people’s property.”*

Corruption is a crime that worries all parties. It has spread like cancer in society - like termites infesting a tree, which will eventually spread and kill the tree.

Corruption can erode the justice system, moral values, and undermine democratic governance. There will be members of society with bad personalities who are despicable because they are willing to sacrifice their personal and religious dignity in pursuit of money, career, position, rank, gifts, etc.

Corruption can happen in politics, the public service sector, the private sector and among the public. Corruption is the act of giving, receiving and asking for bribes, making false claims and abusing a position to gain an advantage. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *Hadith* narrated by al-Tabrani:

الرَّاشِي وَالْمُرْتَشِي فِي النَّارِ

Which means: *“The one who bribes and the one who takes a bribe will be in the hell fire.”*

This *Hadith* explains that it is not only the recipient of bribes who is guilty, charged and punished but also those who give bribes.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Corruption is caused by the failure of people to control their worldly desire and

exceeding their financial capability. In addition, those who are involved in corruption are greedy, wanting wealth quickly without regard to the issue of *halal* (permissible) and *haram* (forbidden), and the law; their ultimate goal in life is only to gain money and wealth. These people only care about luxury in life instead of the pleasure of Allah the Almighty. Remember the Prophet's (PBUH) advice in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam Tirmizi;

قَالَ سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " إِنَّ لِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ فِتْنَةٌ وَفِتْنَةُ أُمَّتِي الْمَالُ "

Which means: *Ka'b bin 'Iyad narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said: "Indeed there is a fitnah (tribulation) for every Ummah (community), and the fitnah for my Ummah is wealth."*

Therefore, as a person of faith, we should stay away from all things that are damaging and humiliating in life.

Reflect on the life of the Prophet (PBUH) who always focused on blessings in life and not on luxury. Although the Prophet (PBUH) was once offered hills and mountains to be turned into gold, he rejected it and still chose a simple yet blessed way of life. It is narrated by Abdullah Ibn Mas'ud (May Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (PBUH) slept on a mat and woke up afterward with marks on his body. Then a companion brought him a soft sheet, and the Prophet (PBUH) said: "What is my position in this world? I am not in the world but as a traveler who takes shelter under a tree and then leaves it."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us increase integrity and fulfill trust by being a group that enjoins good and forbids evil. Continue to support the agency responsible for combating corruption in our country, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

MACC's efforts will not have any effect if there is no cooperation from everyone in the community to ensure that corruption is eradicated. Therefore, the awareness, support and responsibility of all parties are essential to achieve the goal of eradicating corruption. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 3 (*Surah Ali Imran*) verse (*ayat*) 104:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ
عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٠٤﴾

Which means: *Be a community that calls for what is good, urges what is right, and forbids what is wrong: those who do this are the successful ones.*

بَارَكَ اللهُ 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 اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.