AVOID DRUGS FOR A HARMONIOUS COUNTRY JUNE 9, 2023 | 20 ZULKAEDAH 1444H

اَخْمَدُ بِللهِ نَحَمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَن يَهْدِهِ اللهُ فَلاَ مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَن يُضْلِلْ فَلاَ هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لاَ اِللهَ إِلاَّ اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لاَ شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ الله، إِتَّقُوْا اللهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللهِ، 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,

Illegal drugs are a serious issue in our country because it impacts not only the individuals involved but can also affect the whole country. Illegal drugs have been declared as the main enemy of the country since 1983 because the smuggling, distribution and abuse of drugs pose a great threat

to society, the economy and the security of our country. Therefore, all of us need to join forces and agree to fight the root causes of illegal drugs.

In fact, apart from being harmful to the abuser, drug abuse is also prohibited by *Sharia* (Islamic law) and the country's laws and have negative effects on the family, society and country. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) verse (*ayat*) 195:

أعُودُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَأَنفِقُواْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تُلَقُّواْ بِأَيْدِيكُرُ إِلَى النَّهُ لُكَةٍ وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿١٥﴾

Which means: "Spend in Allah's cause: do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for Allah loves those who do good."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Drug abuse can lead to addiction and can damage the mind. It affects one's mental health and can lead someone to commit murder, robbery, theft, and other crimes.

The reality is that the number of individuals involved in drug abuse and illicit substances is increasing. The National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA) reported that up to September 2022, the number of addicts was 129,092 – an increase of 14.5 percent compared to the same period in 2021. What is concerning about this number is that 83.4 percent or 107,633 are Muslims. This includes addiction involving teenagers.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us ponder what will happen if this number continues to increase? It becomes worse when children are left behind because their parents become addicts; the society becomes dysfunctional due to the failure of the family system.

Parents and children who are faced with family members who have drug addiction problems will experience emotional stress such as low self-esteem, depression and will feel abandoned by society. If this situation continues, they will become unproductive and unable to play their role as members of the family, society, and country.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

NADA is an agency that has been involved in the prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation services for individuals afflicted with drug addiction for almost four decades.

However, the efforts implemented by NADA cannot be realized unless fought for collectively and continuously. In line with this year's National Anti-Drug Day theme which is "Prevention is Better", all parties, whether individuals, groups, families, employers, community leaders,

organizations or government departments, and especially educational institutions, need to play their important roles in curbing this problem.

As individuals who have families, we should play our role in ensuring that our family members are not involved in drug abuse. Family relationships need to be strengthened: movements and interactions of children and family members need to be monitored and supervised so they do not get involved drugs and social problems. The Prophet peace be upon him (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari which means:

"All of you are guardians and responsible for your charges: the Ruler (i.e. Imam) is a guardian and responsible for his subjects; and a man is a guardian of his family and is responsible for his charges"

أَعُوذُ بِٱللَّهِ مِنَ ٱلشَّيْطَنِ ٱلرَّجِيمِ

يَتَأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَءَامَنُواْ قُوَاْ أَنفُسَكُمُ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَازًا وَقُودُهَا ٱلنَّاسُ وَٱلِجِّجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَتَبِكَةً غِلاَظٌ شِدَادٌ لَآيِعَصُونَ ٱللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَايُؤْمَرُونَ ۞

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي القُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْاَيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحُكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِي وَمِنْكُم تِلاَوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحُكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِي وَمِنْكُم تِلاَوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ

السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.