

VOLUNTEERISM: ADUTY, NOTA CHOICE

I implore all of us to increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala by fulfilling all of His Commands and abstaining from all of His prohibitions. Let us increase our remembrance of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala,

increase our salawaat and salaam upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam, and always striving to perform all of his sunnah. Indeed, we hope that it will bring about benefit in this world and the Hereafter.

In conjunction with this year's National Anti-Drug Day, the khutbah will touch upon the topic of "Volunteerism: A Duty, Not A Choice."

The word "volunteerism" carries a meaningful definition. It is defined as a sincere deed, without expecting anything in return for its noble purpose. Islamic history has shown that an

advanced civilization must comprise of a society having a high spirit of volunteerism. Hence, volunteerism completes and complements the development of a society or nation.

Without a high spirit of volunteerism within individuals and groups in an organization, the success of building a society and nation will not be fully attainable. In Malaysia, volunteerism

has been long deeply rooted among its citizens. This is apparent in the traditions and customs of all races such as gotong-royong (community cleanup) and others.

The spirit of volunteerism and cooperation in helping out one another has become a pillar within the local culture and also as a way of life, especially in the village areas,

that there is even a proverb that goes,

(the blind ones would blow the flour; the deaf ones would fire the cannon; the fatigued ones would shoo away the chickens;

those with scabies would clean the bamboo)."

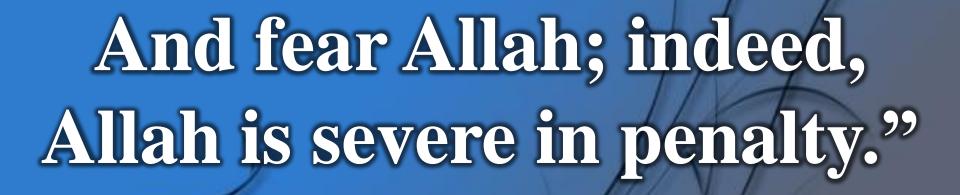
This portrays the willingness and pride of every community members in exercising their very role to achieve noble objectives within the community.

For the Muslims, volunteerism is well taught, encouraged, and engrained in the religion for Islam highly demands that we always help out each other, voluntarily in mutually

assisting others towards good, with sincerity. Such noble deeds are proven to nurture respect, loving, and caring between one another. If such practices are prevalent among the

Muslims, then even the non-Muslims would partake in them. For a diverse and multicultural society, it is these noble deeds and values that will help build a harmonious, peaceful, and

prosperous living. Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression.



(al-Maa'idah 5:2)

Mutual assistance of others and volunteerism can be carried out in various ways and methods such as through financial contributions, sharing wealth, and others, or through physical

contributions, sharing expertise, providing advice, and consultation such as mutual aid in preventing vices, crime, abuse, fraud, and its like.

As we all know, the National Anti-Drug Agency (AADK) is an agency that is responsible for the affairs pertaining to drug abuse. Its main role is to administer and ensure that all efforts in

curbing the threats of drug abuse are carried out as planned, focused and in accordance to its final objectives, in raising a society and nation that is drugfree.

Every task that is planned and developed in fulfilling this very role is very challenging. Each task is a responsibility that cannot be carried out by AADK alone. Each effort strongly needs

the support and assistance from all walks of society. Most importantly is to garner the help and cooperation of the masses to together participate in the

various programs and activities that have been planned and implemented, with full enthusiasm, zeal, and sincerity.

Therefore, in this regard, we truly hope for all communities to galvanize their efforts and work collectively in planning and organizing activities within their respective

communities, in fighting against drug abuse. Whether communities living in the city, suburb, rural areas, or even by the water, they must all cooperate and work together in implementing

those activities. At the very least, local communities are able to convey and channel information to the authorities regarding drug

activities in their neighborhood. On the authority of Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri radiyAllaahu 'anh, the Prophet sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"Whoever sees something evil should change it with his hand. If he cannot, then with his tongue; and if he cannot do even that, then in his heart. That is the weakest degree of faith."

(Muslim)

If there occurs acts of disobedience such as drug abuse, then the community is not free from initiatives or efforts to prevent it according to their means and capacity. If they are unable

to prevent, then they are to report it to the authorities, for this is also a preventive measure in providing assistance to the local community faced with the threat of drug abuse.

In the noble effort to ensure that everyone feels the duty and responsibility in eradicating drug abuse, AADK has established the "Anti-Drug Volunteer Corps" also known as

"Skuad 1 Malaysia." The main objective of its establishment is for the volunteers to action and operates as a team in aiding the government, specifically in drug-related issues and problems.

The objectives of "Skuad 1Malaysia" are as follows: 1- Creating awareness on the danger and peril of drug abuse to the masses.

- 2- Providing aid and support to those suffering from drugrelated problems. 3-Acting as agents in disseminating information and
 - promoting AADK services.

The khateeb would like to take this very opportunity to implore all Malaysians to participate, in providing support and cooperation to this squad. It is truly hoped that with the participation,

support, and cooperation from everyone, this will create a wave of volunteerism as highly encouraged in Islam, in overcoming drug problems in this nation.

This wave of volunteerism must be given its due attention and importance by all community members, for that is the best weapon in fighting against this critical and ever-increasing problem.

In a hadeeth, the Prophet sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"Allah does not punish the individuals for the sins of the community until they see the evil

spreading among themselves, and while they have the power to stop it, do not do so."

(Ahmad)

This hadeeth clearly informs us that every individual are responsible in preventing disobedience and enjoining good within the community, according to their very capacity and ability.

Therefore, let us work together in safeguarding the security and harmony of our nation, particularly in preventing drug problems.

Indeed, we truly hope to attain peace in our lives and granted protection from Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.

"You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah.

If only the People of the Scripture had believed, it would have been better for them. Among them are believers, but most of them are defiantly disobedient."

(Aal-'Imraan 3:110)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنكُمْ تِلاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قُولِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِر الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيْمُ

O Allah, You are the Almighty Lord, we are grateful unto You for having bestowed upon us Mercy and Blessings, nourishing us to strive to continue in strengthening the Muslim nation especially the state of Selangor, as an advanced, progressive, peaceful, and benevolent state.

We beseech and beg You, Ya Allah, to strengthen our imaan, increase our good deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our provision, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, nourish our soul with beautiful akhlaaq, guide us to the Path that is Pleasing to You,

protect us from Your severe tribulations such as the long drought, severe flooding, disease outbreak, violence and instability, poverty, and others, so that our land will become more peaceful and blessed.

Oh Allah, we ask You to open up the hearts of the Muslim ummah especially in Selangor, to fulfill their zakaat obligation as You had decreed in al-Qur'an. Bless the lives of those who have fulfilled their zakaat obligation, loving and caring for the poor and needy.

Purify their wealth and soul so that they will live according to that which pleases You. Protect the poor and needy from disbelief and everlasting poverty. Allaahummaa ameen



DI SEDIAKAN OLEH: BAHAGIAN KHUTBAH, JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR ILLUSTRASI OLEH:

UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR