



## ZAKAAH INTERNALIZED,

POVERTY

**REDUCED** 

I implore all of us to place taqwa as our utmost agenda in our lives while living on Allah's earth. With true taqwa, Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala

promises us the true success in this world and the Hereafter. The topic of today's khutbah is: "Zakaah Internalized, Poverty Reduced."

Among the characteristics of individuals having taqwa is the loyalty and will to perform all orders and commands from Allah without questioning even if it requires giving up life and

wealth, solely for the sake of attaining the *taqwa* of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. Hence, Allah will recompense the lives and wealth surrendered with priceless gifts, which are His

Pleasure and the bounties of Jannah. Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "O you who have believed, shall I guide you to a transaction that

will save you from a painful punishment? [It is that] you believe in Allah and His Messenger and strive in the cause of Allah with your wealth

## and your lives. That is best for you, if you should know." (as-Saff 61:10-11)

The 'ibaadah of zakaah truly symbolizes the perfection of Islam. Islam is not merely a religion that solely emphasize on specific 'ibaadah only, but instead it embodies and entails the

rules of life that safeguards justice and welfare of humanity. It is not restricted to the Muslims only but rather Islam's love and care encompass every creation that exists on Allah's earth.

Among the evidence of justice in Islam is the requirement to fulfill zakaah where the wealthy ones would fulfill their very obligations toward the poor, needy, and the asnafs

(recipients) whom are qualified zakaah recipients. Indeed, the distribution and disbursement of the collected zakaah significantly contributes to the improvement of the social

standards, economy, education, spirituality, and the identity of the Muslim ummah. In the glorious history of Islam, during the reign of Caliph 'Umar bin 'Abdul 'Azeez, which is

based in the city of Dimashq, they were successful in demonstrating the beauty of Islam in the increase of *zakaah* collection. History has witnessed and recorded the outstanding zakaah

distribution practiced during that time, which was successful in eradicating poverty such that there were no more poor person living in the city of Dimashq and even further beyond in the

nations in Africa. Various strategies and actions must be taken to ensure that the zakaah collected will be thoroughly benefited in the best manner possible by the asnafs

(recipients). Truly, the work of zakaah distribution in Selangor has continually improved throughout the years. Since 1995 until now, Lembaga Zakat Selangor (Selangor Zakaah Board) has

disbursed zakaah to the eight categories of qualified recipients in various forms of aid and assistance. Such efforts were successful in aiding the recipients to improve their living

standards to better situations. Despite the fine efforts in zakaah distribution, in reality it is not the ultimate success for the greatest challenge is to ensure that the *zakaah* disbursement will

have maximum impact in the fight against poverty in this state, hence improving the economic status of the *asnafs*.

All parties must assume and carry out their roles in increasing the economic capability and living standards of the Muslims in this state. In addition to the role of the zakaah institution

in improving the standard of living of the Muslim ummah, it calls for the government, the private sector, NGOs, da'wah and welfare institutions to work hand in hand in realizing this noble

effort. Empowering the personality and identity of the zakaah recipients should be nurtured and enhanced from time to time, in raising individuals that are firm and motivated to constantly strive

to improve their standards of living unto becoming better. Being independent and proactive without relying solely on zakaah aid is greatly demanded in Islam, as mentioned in al-Qur'an:

## "... Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves..."

(ar-Ra'd 13:11)

Prof Dr Yusof al-Qaradawi hafizhahullah has mentioned in his book titled "How Islam Solves Poverty," stating: "The function of zakaah is not like the tranquilizer

injection that reduces the pain for a few seconds only, but instead it is like the medical cure that eradicates the illness down to grassroots level."

Indeed, the noble effort of eradicating poverty down to its grassroots level is no easy task. It cannot be resolved individually, but instead requires a united and galvanized effort. With

a centralization of zakaah funds to the 'aamil institution (zakaah collector), various aids and benefits can be channeled comprehensively to eligible recipients.

Aids and assistance such as business capital, educational assistance, university scholarship, school equipment, mosque institutional development, schools, medical treatment,

living allowance, and many more, can be disbursed fully and continually. The total amount of disbursement in 2012 for various allocations are as follows: RM138 million for the poor and

needy, RM140.4 million for fee sabeelillaah (for the cause of Allah), RM33.7 million for the ghaarimeen (those in debt), RM23.8 million for the mu'allaf (converts),

**RM6.9 million** for the *riqaab* (freeing captives), RM1.8 million for *ibn sabeel* (traveler), and RM56.4 million for the *'aamileen* (those employed to collect zakaah).

Based on the records of zakaah payers at Lembaga Zakat Selangor (Selangor Zakaah Board) for 2012, a total of 210,307 individuals have fulfilled their zakaah obligation with a collected

amount of RM451.3 million, an increase from the 2011 collection of RM394.1 million with 180,617 individuals. Therefore, let us fulfill our *'ibaadah* of *zakaah* through

the various facilities such as the 24 zakaah counters in all districts, online payment, salary deduction, authorized banks, post office, and others, for the sake of fulfilling the fard

(obligation) decreed by Allah and helping to improve the economic status of the Muslims in this nation.

As the khateeb, I would like to remind everyone regarding these matters: 1- Ensure all the wealth that we possess such as our income, savings, stocks, shares, gold, silver,

agricultural produce, livestock, and others, have all been accounted for in fulfilling our *zakaah* obligation.

2- Remain istiqaamah in obeying all the commands of Allah including the 'ibaadah of zakaah. Let us fulfill our zakaah obligation through recognized *'aamil* institutions such as

Lembaga Zakat Selangor (Selangor Zakaah Board), in accordance with the objectives and vision of the state administration so that Selangor will become a state of prosperity and welfare.

3- Let us give our full trust and confidence by fulfilling our zakaah obligation with the 'aamil institution so as to ensure our zakaah money will be

efficiently administered and channeled to deserving *asnafs*, so that the objectives will be attained effectively.

## 4- Let us fulfill our *zakaah* obligation through various facilities available such as the 24 *zakaah*

counters throughout the state, online payment, salary deduction, authorized banks, post office, and others.

Take heed for everything in this world will perish. Only our good deeds and bad deeds (sins) will remain as our provision in the Hereafter.

Hence, let us strive to attain the Pleasure of our *Ilaah* by increasing our good deeds in this temporary world. "As for he who gives and fears Allah, And believes in the best [reward], We will ease him toward ease." (al-Layl 92:5-7)



O Allah, You are All-Powerful, we are truly grateful unto You for bestowing upon us rahmah and ni'mah, that we are able to continue the efforts in

strengthening the Muslim nation especially the state of Selangor, as an advanced state, prosperous, and providing welfare services.

Hence, we beseech You, O Allah, strengthen our *imaan*, accept our good deeds, solidify our unity, increase our sustenance, enrich us with beneficial knowledge,

fill our hearts with noble characters, guide us to the path that is pleasing to You, protect us from all types of calamities and Your severe tribulations so that our state will continue to prosper and remain blessed.

**O** Allah, open up our hearts to complete the five daily salawaat and '*ibaadah* of zakaat as You have ordained. Bless the lives of those who have fulfilled their zakaat

obligation, loving the poor and needy. Purify their wealth and hearts, protect the *fuqaraa*' and *masaakeen* from *kufr* and continuous poverty. O Allah, increase and expand the sustenance of those who made *waqf* from of their wealth, accept their *waqf* with eternal rewards until the Hereafter.

