



JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ZAKAAT AL-FITR COMPLEMENTS THE FASTING

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Let us altogether strive to increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala, by performing all of His **Commands** and

avoiding all of His prohibitions. May we all attain success in this world and the Hereafter.

The title of our *khutbah* today is



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In Islam, the 'ibaadah (worship) of zakaat al-fitr has several elements that are closely intertwined with the 'ibaadah of fasting. First, zakaat alfitr was legislated during the second of year of

Hijrah, along with the obligation of fasting. Second, zakaat al-fitr is also comprised of two pillars, similar with the obligatory fasting which has two pillars.

Third, zakaat al-fitr is intended to lighten the burden of the poor, while fasting also teaches us to empathize with the hunger that is often endured by the poor.

Ibn 'Abbaas *radiyAllaahu 'anhuma* stated that:

"The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) enjoined zakaat al-fitr as a purification for

the fasting person from idle talk and obscenities, and to feed the poor." (Abu Dawood and ibn Maajah)

Then the question arises, for those of us fasting today, how far have we gone in experiencing the relationship between fasting and zakaat al-fitr? The zakaat al-fitr that we had fulfilled, has it become just a regular routine purely for the sake of fulfilling an obligation?

As it was mentioned by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala in verse 183 of soorah al-Bagarah that the objective of the legislation of fasting is taqwa (piety), hence it is perfected by the

'ibaadah of *zakaat al-fitr* towards its end. Like the cross country runner, towards the end, he or she must overcome the obstacles to cross the finish line, reaching and cutting off the ribbon string.

If fasting is likened to running the marathon, then zakaat al-fitr would be the ribbon string. By fulfilling zakaat al-fitr, our fasting package is then perfected. Our efforts in attaining taqwa has

been completed, thereupon becoming 'a new person in terms of imaan (faith) and akhlaaq (character)' after having completed the madrasah of Ramadaan. Therefore, we are fully deserving

of extraordinary rewards for such victory.

In the *hadeeth* of 'Ali bin Abi Taalib *radiyAllaahu 'anh*, Rasulullah ﷺ said:

"Indeed in Paradise there are chambers whose outside can be seen from their inside, and their inside can be seen fom their outside." A Bedouin stood and said: "Who are they for O Prophet

of Allah?" He said: "For those who speak well, feed others [including zakaat alfitr], fast regularly, and perform salaah for Allah during the night while the people sleep."

(at-Tirmidhi)

This hadeeth clearly indicate to us that indeed Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala has prepared special rewards specifically for those that have fulfilled

the obligation of zakaat al-fitr, along with fasting. Such is how zakaat al-fitr perfects our fasting.

In reality, majority of the world's problems today stems from the evil of the tongue and bad akhlaaq such as stinginess, greed, and covetousness. Through fasting, in reality we had forced

ourselves to taste the very bit of difficulties endured by the poor and needy. Just imagine, for **13 hours our intestines** are left empty that we began to starve and fatigue.

This practical exercise is to be concluded with one noble act, which is mutual sharing of rizq (provision) by giving sadaqah (charity) and performing zakaat al-fitr.

What does it all really mean if after enduring the sufferings of the poor by staying hungry, yet one is still shrouded with stinginess, unwilling to share *rizq* with them? Therefore, zakaat al-fitr

comes as a limiter. Have we been able to tame the greed within ourselves and subduing stinginess, or are we just like *"enau (sugar* palm) in the bushes,

only releasing its own shoots?"

(meaning: being selfish and unconcerned about others).

Up until 31st December 2020, it was recorded that over 60 thousand poor families are officially registered with the **Selangor Zakaat Board** (LZS). That is no small amount, for if it is

further broken down into individuals, in reality it is over 350 thousand people. Hence, the **Selangor Zakaat Board** would always strive, year after year, in ensuring that all of them would

receive adequate assistance to celebrate 'Eid al-Fitr with adequacy. For the year 2020, over **RM27** million were distributed before 'Eid al-Fitr. The Selangor Zakaat **Board also ensures**

that every individual or poor family will receive the 'Eid aid with a minimum of RM300 and this amount will be increased according to the number of dependents up until

the maximum allocation of RM1,000 per family.

On that basis, the Selangor Zakaat Board remains tireless in calling upon the Muslims in this

state to utilize zakaat alfitr as a plantation for harvesting rewards. Moreover, if in the past zakaat al-fitr was determined at only RM7.00, now the **Selangor Zakaat Board**

is encouraging the Muslims to select zakaat al-fitr rate that is more suitable to one's lifestyle. Whether RM14.00 or RM21.00 per person, it is according to the type of rice that one typically

consumes daily. Yes, if we can afford to eat delicious food and expensive rice, then it is only right that we opt for a zakaat al-fitr rate that is suitable to our capability. This is in accordance with what

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ suggested.

'Abdullah bin 'Umar *radiyAllaahu 'anhuma* narrated:

"The Prophet (ﷺ) ordered (Muslims) to give one sa' of dates or one sa' of barley as zakaat al-fitr. The people rewarded two mudds of wheat as equal to that."

(al-Bukhaari)

This is what has been enjoined by Islam, which is striving for the best when performing righteous deeds, as Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala mentions in verse 148 of soorah al-Baqarah:

فاستبقوا الخيرات

"So race to [all that is] good..."

Truthfully, the Selangor Zakaat **Board has prepared** various avenues for zakaat payment, whether via online,

salary deduction, credit card, ATM, authorized zakaat agents, and others. Let us ensure that we fulfill our zakaat through the proper channel and to certified 'aamil (zakaat collectors), in ensuring that our zakaat is valid and actually reaches eligible recipients (asnaf). This is in line with what has been decreed by His Royal **Highness the Sultan of Selangor and the**

decision of the Selangor Fatwa Committee, that zakaat must be channelled to the **Selangor Zakaat Board as** the certified entity in administering zakaat affairs in this state.

To end the khutbah (sermon) this time, the following are several matters that can be taken as guidance:

1. The Muslim ummah must truly comprehend that zakaat al-fitr is an 'ibaadah with enormous virtues along with the 'ibaadah of fasting, in developing taqwa.

2. The Muslim ummah must fulfill the obligation of zakaat al-fitr according to its capability by selecting from the various rates that have been determined.

3. The Muslim ummah must fulfill zakaat al-fitr and zakaat of wealth through the Selangor Zakaat Board so that the zakaat can be disbursed thoroughly to all deserving asnaf.

"And the example of those who spend their wealth seeking means to the approval of Allah and assuring [reward for] themselves is like a garden on high ground which is hit by a

downpour - so it yields its fruits in double. And [even] if it is not hit by a downpour, then a drizzle [is sufficient]. And Allah, of what you do, is Seeing." (Soorah al-Bagarah 2:265)



Once more, I would like to remind all of us to always have the taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala by guarding ourselves and our families from abominable deeds and disobedience against

Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. At the same time, we will continue to pray so that our country will always remain blessed and protected from all forms of threat, as well as contagions from the Covid-19

pandemic. For that, let us graciously accept the government's recommendation in the vaccination efforts by registering ourselves through the MySejahtera application in order to obtain vaccine shots

that have been authorized by the Ministry of Health Malaysia. We should not feel angry or doubtful when given the shots while fasting in Ramadaan for it will not invalidate the fast. Such matter had been

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meticulously scrutinized and discussed in details, where its ruling of permissibility was reached during the 118th **Muzakarah** Committee Meeting of the National Council for **Islamic Affairs (MKI) that**

convened on the 16th and **17th of February 2021 and** also the Selangor Fatwa **Committee Meeting that** took place on the 9th of March, 2021.

I also would like to remind that in our pursuit for the virtues and superiority of the month of Ramadaan, which has 19 days left, let us intensify our efforts in livening up the nights of **Ramadaan by performing**

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the complete taraweeh sunnah prayer with twenty raka'ah. This is the view according to the madhhab (school of thought) of ash-Shaafi'i. Imaam an-Nawawi mentioned in his book al-Majmoo':

"According to our madhhab, it (taraweeh prayer) is twenty raka'ah with ten tasleem without the witr."

Moreover, it is also the opinion of Imaam Abu Haneefah and Imaam Ahmad bin Hanbal. While Imaam Maalik ibn Anas is of the opinion that it is thirty six raka'ah.

The twenty raka'ah of taraweeh prayer is based on the narration of as-Saa'ib bin Yazeed radiyAllaahu 'anh, whom said:

"In the time of 'Umar ibn al-Khattaab radiyAllaahu 'anh they would perform 20 raka'ah in the month of Ramadaan."

(al-Bayhaqi)

Therefore, let us complete our taraweeh prayer with twenty raka'ah, so that we will obtain its reward as promised by the **Prophet** *M*, which is forgiveness from Allah for all of our past sins. Verily, the

taraweeh prayer performed with less than that (i.e. twenty raka'ah) is not deemed as taraweeh prayer according to the Shaafi'i madhhab. However, it will still receive the reward of the night prayer (qiyaam),

inshaa Allah.

On this glorious day, let us altogether increase our salawaat **upon our beloved Prophet** Muhammad 🇯 as Allah has **commanded**:

O Allah, You are the Lord that is All Mighty, we are grateful to You for having bestowed upon us rahmah and blessings upon this state that continues to prosper and progress, and that its residents remain united,

under the auspices and leadership of our Ruler as the Head of Islamic affairs in this state.

O Allah, make us among Your slaves whom are always exalting Your Words and **Religion.** Keep us away from groups and those that like to criticize, curse, and insult Your **Religion**.

O Allah, grant us guidance in performing the five obligatory prayers in congregation, fulfilling zakaat through Selangor Zakaat Board (LZS), and give away our wealth and endowment (waqf) through

Perbadanan Wakaf Selangor **(Selangor Endowment Corporation) and Tabung Infak** Jariah Umat Islam Selangor **(TIJARI, Selangor Continuous Charity for Muslims Fund),**

and to the orphans through Darul Ehsan Islamic Foundation (YIDE).

INDERASING DEEDAWANOLEH

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