JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

THE WISDOM OF *ZAKAAH*

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Let us have the *taqwa* of Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* in its completeness with absolute obedience in fulfilling His Commandments and avoiding His prohibitions. For all of our actions and deeds will be held accountable on the Last Day.

Zakaah is among the pillars of Islam that is *waajib* upon the Muslims. On the authority of Abu ‘Abd al-Rahman ‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar bin al-Khattab *radiyAllaahu ‘anh* who said: I heard the Prophet *sallAllahu ‘alayhi wasallam* say:

“Islam has been built upon five things - on testifying that there is no god save Allah, and that Muhammad is His Messenger;

on performing *salaah*; on giving the *zakaah*; on Hajj to the House; and on fasting during Ramadhan

(Agreed upon)

Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* loves those that are sincere in spending their wealth in His Path. Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* praises their noble act as He mentions in al-Qur'an:

“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)

Zakaah is not just mere *‘ibaadah*. It is a righteous deed that will sow strength in the relationship between the slave and his Creator, and also forming relationship between individuals and the society.

Zakaah is *rahmah* (mercy) that was bestowed to mankind by Allah. This *rahmah* is not only felt by recipients of *zakaah* distribution but also those giving *zakaah* and the Muslim *ummah*.

History has shown that the Muslim nation has attained harmony and prosperity resulting from the efficient *zakaah* system implemented during the time of Khalifah ‘Umar bin ‘Abdul ‘Aziz

and also during the Golden Era of Islam. Indeed, *zakaah* has several aims and objectives that was laid down by Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala*:

1- Religious objective

Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* mentions in al-Qur'an:

"Take, [O, Muhammad *sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam*],

from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase…”

(at-Tawbah 9:103)

This verse explains that *zakaah* has two main objectives, namely: cleansing (*at-Tatt-hir*) and purification (*at-Tazkiyyah*). Indeed, our hearts are deeply attached with money and wealth.

Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* mentions in al-Qur'an:

"And you love wealth with immense love."

(al-Fajr 89:20)

Hence, the very act of giving *zakaah* will purify the heart and soul of mankind from enslaving themselves to wealth. This is a true manifestation of sincere faith and love of the slave to Allah Almighty and His Messenger *sallAllahu ‘alayhi*

wasallam more than his love for his wealth. In addition, giving *zakaah* is intended to purify the *akhlaaq* of mankind. Verily, the characteristics of *bakheel* (stinginess) and miserliness are among the worse disease plaguing the rich.

Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* mentions in al-Qur'an:

"… And ever has man been stingy."

(al-Israa' 17:100)

Jaabir ibn ‘Abdillaah *radiyAllaahu ‘anh* reported that the Messenger of Allah *sallAllahu ‘alayhi wasallam* said:

“Be on your guard against committing oppression, for oppression is a darkness on

the Day of Resurrection, and be on your guard against petti-mindedness for petti-mindedness destroyed those who were before you, as it incited them to shed blood and make lawful what was unlawful for them”

(Muslim)

Therefore, the best cure in treating the disease of *bakheel* and miserliness is through giving our wealth in the Path of Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala*. By giving *zakaah*, we will extinguish these evil characteristics,

when we whole-heartedly with *ikhlaas* give up a portion of our wealth to the poor and needy in seeking the Pleasure of Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala*.

Remember! Those that refuse or withhold from giving charity and *zakaah* are from among those that will be thrown into the Fire of Hell by Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala*. Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* mentions in al-Qur'an:

“[And asking them], “What put you into *Saqar*?” They will say, “We were not of those who prayed. Nor did we used to feed the poor.”””

(al-Muddaththir 74:42-44)

Furthermore, *zakaah* will cleanse and purify our wealth. Verily, we cannot fully protect and guarantee our wealth from the mischiefs of others except by the help of Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala*.

Hence, Islam teaches us to protect our wealth through giving *zakaah*.

2- Social objective

Prof. Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi explained that every human desires for the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, dwelling, good health, and education.

They are necessary to equip mankind in becoming the khalifah and complete slave of Allah. Since not everyone can attain such necessities, thus Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* decreed the obligation of *zakaah* so that the Muslims will

constantly aid each other in fulfilling their living needs. By fulfilling the *zakaah* obligation, the rich will transfer portions of their wealth to the poor and needy. Alternatively, the poor and needy will get a taste of relief and ease in their lives with

the presence of benevolent hands that are ever ready to aid others in attaining basic comfort in their lives. Abu Hurayrah *radiyAllaahu ‘anh* reported that Rasulullah *sallAllahu ‘alayhi wasallam* said:

“Do not be envious of one another; do not artificially inflate prices against one another; do not hate one another;

do not shun one another; and do not undercut one another in business transactions; and be as fellow brothers and servants of Allah….”

(Muslim)

3- Economical objective

Many economic experts mention that the economy of a nation rises when the purchasing power of its population increases.

When purchasing power increases, the demands for various products and services will increase in the market. Hence, more economic needs and challenges that will be faced by all.

For this, the *Zakaah* Board of Selangor had successfully distributed the collected *zakaah* in 2010 amounting to RM330 million to the eligible *zakaah* recipients (*asnaf*). Among the *zakaah* distribution made in 2010 were for the construction

of homes for the poor (RM5.1 million), Islamic Education (KAFA) teachers allowance disbursement (RM26 million), masjid administration and and officers allowance disbursement (RM7.2 million),

construction of mosques and suraus (RM5.2 million), financial aid to students abroad (RM8.2 million), and various other aid and development programs for the Muslims in the state of Selangor. Such scenario will surely increase the

purchasing power of the Muslim *ummah*. This bounty and prosperity will eventually return to the *zakaah* payers whom are from among the entrepreneurs, traders,

contractors, service providers, and many others, for the *zakaah* money would be used and cycled in transactions to obtain the services needed.

Let us become grateful slaves of Allah by fulfilling our *zakaah* obligation that is *waajib* whether in wealth, gold and silver, savings, stocks, KWSP (pension funds), agricultural produce, crops, and livestock.

The *Zakaah* Board of Selangor offers various *zakaah* payment services to facilitate the needs of the Muslims such as having 24 *zakaah* payment counters throughout Selangor and *zakaah* payment service through salary deduction, internet banking,

banks and post offices, ATM, credit card, and others. Let us remind ourselves that we were once born into this world alone without any wealth, clothing, status, and salary.

Lo and behold, by His Grace and *Rahmah*, Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* bestowed upon us every type of luxury and prosperity. The bungalows, expensive cars, stocks, company shares,

savings, status, and employment, which all have brought a sense of pride to us until this day. Will all those prosperity and bounties,

are we still reluctant and heavy-hearted to return the magnanimous provision that was bestowed byAllah by forking out *zakaah* at only 2.5%?

“And [remember] when your Lord proclaimed, “If you are grateful, I will surely increase you [in favor]; but if you deny, indeed, My punishment is severe.””

(Ibraaheem 14:7)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِى الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالأَمْوَات فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.

O Allah,

The most merciful god, we thank you for all the mercy and pleasure that you gave so that we can enhance and strengthen our Islamic country especially Selangor as a developed and peaceful country.

O Allah, We beg you to increase our practice, brace up our unity, give us prosperous life, make us rich with good knowledge, flourish our soul with noble character, bring back our youngsters to the right path, save us from your biggest test such

as huge flood, drought, epidemic, disputing between ourselves, poorness and anything else so that this country will be more prosperous and blessed.

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

DI SEDIAKAN OLEH :

UNIT KHUTBAH,

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH :

UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,

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