

Friday Sermon (Jumu'ah Khutba) 22nd September 2017:

AAIIL (Fiji)-v-CoP23

The special readings today are especially dedicated to Climate Change. You are kindly requested to convey essence of this special sermon (*Jumu'ah khutba*) to others who are within your regular circles, so that the message may manifest widely. As directed by the Secretariat of CoP23, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Prime Minister, all Faith groups must embark upon briefing their congregations, about adaptation to Climate Change and the roll out task of preventing any further worsening of global warming. Global warming must be contained not more than 1.5-deg C, otherwise higher temperatures will definitely prompt sea-level rise by additional 1.8 meters, by year 2030.

Cognizance needs to be given that when Almighty God created this planet Earth 4.9 billion years ago, He completely facilitated all basic essentials for satisfactory survival of all His creatures on the lands and the seas. After Earth had reached ambient temperature and climatic conditions, Almighty God created mankind, commencing with Adam and Eve, whose progeny are humanity of various descriptions today.

It is imperative, that humanity today must endeavour to preserve the surrounding environment all over the world, inasmuch as our great ancestors did for us; and accordingly, in the same vein, humanity today must endeavour to preserve the same surrounding environment for the next generations of our descendants and not to deprive them of same.

- 1) Earth was a perfect planet, to support all forms of life of plants, animals, sea creatures and people, when Almighty God created Earth 4.9 billion years ago. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ 11:7** *"And He it is Who created the heavens and the earth in six periods; and His Throne of Power is ever on water that He might manifest (the good qualities in) you, whoever of you is best in deeds. And if you say, You shall surely be raised up after death, those who disbelieve say: This is nothing but clear deceit."*
- 2) Almighty God also created and provided a protective canopy called ozone gas (O₃) to filter out damaging UV rays from the sun and ray deflections from other planets. Ozone is a blueish-purplish gas, globally covering the entire world. In short, ozone gas layer is triatomic molecular structure (O₃) and the fumes and gasses rising up to the ozone layer causes the triatomic to change to diatomic (O₂). The triatomic molecular structure (O₃) is UV

filter and diatomic (O₂) is not any filter. Of all the 9 planets, Earth is the only planet with protective ozone gas layer and so earth is able to generate natural food resources for mankind. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ 2:172** *"O you who believe, eat of the good things that We have provided you with, and give thanks to Allah if He it is Whom you serve."*

- 3) Almighty God then allowed Earth to reach ambient temperature to support all forms of life on land, in the seas and the skies, before creating mankind, commencing with Adam and Eve and generations downstream. This fact is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ 67:15** *"He it is Who made the earth subservient to you, so go about in its spacious sides, and eat from His sustenance. And to Him is the rising (after death)."* **HQ 18:7-8** *"Surely We have made whatever is on the earth an embellishment for it, so that We may try which of them is best in works. And We shall surely make what is on it dust, without vegetation."* The last verse also makes awareness of desertification of land, through mankind's carelessness. The next verse reminds mankind of the great beneficence that Almighty God has provided for them and the natural process, which follow, associated with rainfall and water: **HQ 2:21-22** *"O people, serve your Lord Who created you and those before you, so that you may guard against evil, Who made the earth a resting-place for you and the heaven a structure, and sends down rain from the clouds then brings forth with it fruits for your sustenance; so do not set up rivals to Allah while you know."*
- 4) Mankind used all descriptions of burning materials as fundamental sources of energy, since the creation of mankind. In the main these have been firewood by cutting down millions of trees, burning millions of tons of coal and also millions of tons of petroleum products. These burning materials have been giving off damaging gases, which have all been eroding the protective layer of ozone gas (O₃), enveloping Earth at 30-50 km height above sea-level. The Holy Qur'an warns mankind not to pillage and plunder the essential resources, which Almighty God has so caringly provided to benefit mankind. This is stated at **HQ 6:99** *"And He it is Who sends down water from the clouds, then We bring forth with it buds of all (plants), then We bring forth from it green (foliage), from which We produce clustered grain; and of the date-palm, of the sheaths of it, come forth clusters (of dates) within reach; and gardens of grapes and the olive and the pomegranate, alike and unlike. Look at the fruit of it when it bears fruit and the ripening of it. Surely there are signs in this for a people who believe!"* The relevance of water as basic essential to all forms of life has been stressed: **HQ 13:17** *"He sends down water from the clouds, then watercourses flow according to their measure, and the torrent bears along*

the swelling foam. And a scum like it arises from what they melt in the fire for the sake of making ornaments or tools. Thus does Allah compare truth and falsehood. Then as for the scum, it passes away as a worthless thing; and as for that which benefits people, it remains behind in the earth. Thus does Allah set forth parables."

- 5) Much of the responsibility in current climate change is by mankind themselves, largely involving themselves into activities in their greed for spontaneous wealth gains. This included unprecedented cutting down of trees as firewood, forest fires, coal burning, fossil fuels (oils) and usage of destructive chemicals giving off gases. The situation was further aggravated with industrialisation (1760), invention of steam engines (1779), generation of electricity (1831) and invention of diesel engines (1892). All these new activities used vast amounts of burning materials to give energy, and in so doing, filled the atmosphere with millions of tons of micro-fine carbon.
- 6) The Earth's atmosphere is mainly 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen and 1% of carbon dioxide plus other gases. Leafy trees absorb destructive gases in photosynthesis and give out oxygen. All people, the world over, should not be cutting down trees. People should be planting plenty of leafy trees like pine and poplar trees to keep the air clean and pure by absorbing and processing destructive gases. Some examples of destructive gases to ozone (O₃) are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, bromide gases, and various types of fluorinated gases, plus heat generated by combination of UV rays with micro-fine carbon particles in the air.
- 7) The micro-fine carbon as "carbon footprint," which gets entrapped between the surface of Earth and the ozone layer, then persistently attracts and retains heat, causing the effects of the greenhouse all around Earth. Primary carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly or to indirectly support human activities, including domestic emissions, emissions from motor vehicles, ships and aircraft. Secondary carbon footprint is the sum of indirect emissions associated with the manufactures and breakdown of all products, industry, services and food, which individuals or businesses consume. This excessive accumulated heat then causes the hot gases to move over to the North Pole and South Pole. This heated atmospheric effect is also called greenhouse gases effect.
- 8) Because Earth is like two opposing hemispherical centrifuges, destructive gases get drawn to the Poles, plus heat from micro-fine carbon, causing much of the very hard icecaps to commencing melting. This ice melting will cause all the oceans around the world to rise an accelerated cumulative swell by 1.8 meters (by around 2030), if totally uncontrolled.

- 9)** If no immediate action is taken by all countries in the world to seriously reduce carbon footprint, some of the smaller countries surrounded by seas will be very seriously inundated by seawater. Other countries, which have ocean frontage will also be devastated. Countries, which are landlocked will also be affected by climate change, including having dust storms, serious irreversible droughts and ecological destructions.
- 10)** Deforestation in many countries day and night is reducing the ability for trees to absorb and process destructive gases by photosynthesis. Much of the deforestation is done by burning off thousands of hectares of forest trees day and night. They cause much of thick black smoke, full of carbon and which rises up into the atmosphere.
- 11)** Now the first important question arises: (1). Can the present climate change situation get reversed? Climate change cannot be reversed to what the world was 4.9 billion years ago. The second question arises: (2). Can the present climate change situation be immediately stopped? Climate change cannot be immediately stopped. The damage is beyond human ability to stop in any way. The third important question arises: (3). What can all the peoples of the whole world do to prevent the climate change situation from getting much worse?
- 12)** Here are some of the things that all the peoples throughout the world must do now:
- a) Take recognition that Almighty God most magnificently created Earth with all resources provided for; and we mankind are its custodians.
 - b) Not cutting down any form of trees unless absolutely necessary, but instead plant thousands of several leafy trees (e.g. pine and poplar trees), which cleans the air of destructive gases and so not increasing or worsening of the carbon footprint.
 - c) Not cutting down mangrove trees unless absolutely necessary, but instead plant thousands more of new mangroves to increase ecological support to marine life.
 - d) By embarking on process of carbon fasting, which means refraining from doing much of those things, which increases carbon footprint on Earth. It also means changing our lifestyles to think seriously first on effects of carbon footprint, before embarking on destructive activities to our Earth.
 - e) Be participative, by mentioning to others in nice friendly ways that their activities will increase carbon footprint and of worsening climate change.
 - f) Introducing and spending some moments at congregations or social type gatherings, in asking and suggesting ways of reducing carbon footprint.
 - g) Carbon footprint reduction must commence at home with parents to mentor their children and then extended to schools and clubs.

- h) For commercial market gardening, refrain from purchase of produce, which have been treated with chemical fertilizers, commercial pesticides, weedicides, etc. and select those produced by natural means. All these products have immediate by-products of destructive gases into the air.
- i) All institutions in governmental sector, commercial institutions sector, educational institutions including tertiary, domestic homes and boarding facilities, should have appropriate notices, prompting no wastage of key utility resources such as electricity and water supplies.
- j) All utility suppliers use tremendous fossil fuel resources for their supplies.
- k) Increase use of reusable packaging material such as fabrics for all carry on activities and refrain from plastics and paper bags. Plastics use fossil fuels as their base ingredient and paper bags means cutting down more trees.
- l) Choose topics on “prevention and worsening of climate change” frequently in group discussions, rather than non-beneficial topics, such as movies and other gossips.

Conclusions:

If all members of the society at global level were to fully comprehend the driving causes to climate change and then heed to the comprehensive suggestions expounded upon, that will help to some recognisable extent, the global efforts to reduce carbon footprint and so to reduction in the threats to climate change, beneficially affecting every country in the world.

Fiji

-End of Friday Sermon-