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Importance of Zakat

Dear Brother,

Assalamo Alaikum wa Rehmatullahe wa Barakatohu

May Allah keep all of you under his divine protection from the ongoing COVID pandemic. Aamin

The holy month of Ramadan has started. May Allah enable us all to benefit from this blessed and fruitful month to its fullest. Aamin

As you know that the Zakat is one of the basic pillars of Islam. It is to be paid by every person who comes under its Nisab. Defining Zakat, The Promised Messiah^{as} says:

"What is Zakat? يُؤْخَذُ مِنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَيُرَدُّ إِلَى الْفُقَرَاءِ It is taken from the rich and given to the poor. It teaches the highest level of human sympathy. Thus by coming together of the rich and the poor, the Muslims gain strength. It is a must for the rich to help the poor, and even if it were not so, it is a demand of human sympathy to do so."

(Al Badr Qadian October 1908)

The Promised Messiah^{as}, about importance of Zakat, says:

"O ye people who consider themselves among my Jama'at, heaven will only count you in my Jama'at when you truly strive in the path of *Taqwa*. So observe your five daily prayers with such fear and concentration as if you actually see Allah. Complete your fasts only for the sake of Allah with sincerity. Whoever of you is liable to pay Zakat should do so. And whoever can perform the Hajj, and there is no obstacle in his way, he should perform it."

(Kashti Nuh Rohani Khaza'in Volume 19, Page 15)

Explaining the importance of Zakat, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aba} says:

"There are some people in the Jama'at who think that institution of Zakat has not been established in our Jama'at and we are not giving (due) attention to it. The institution of Zakat has been established in the Jama'at and those who are liable to pay Zakat should pay it ... The importance and compulsion of Zakat have never been denied by any one. Therefore I urge those upon whom Zakat is obligatory that they should compulsorily pay their

Zakat. And it is particularly obligatory on ladies who have (gold) jewelry. Zakat is compulsory on gold."

(Khutbaat e Masroor Volume 5 Page 153)

In another speech, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aba} says:

"Zakat is an obligation for women as well. Here in these countries, by the Grace of God, where people are generally prosperous, every woman possesses some kind of jewelry. Every woman is therefore, under obligation to pay Zakat."

(Speech to Lajnah, Jalsa Salana Germany, August 21, 2004)

Some important facts about Zakat:

1. **The Nisab of silver is 52½ Tolas and of gold is 7½ Tolas, i.e. anyone having 52½ Tolas of silver or 7½ Tolas of gold should pay 2.5% of the total value as Zakat.**
2. In case of cash/bank balance, Huzoor^{aba} mentioned in his letter to Sadar Majlis Ifta'a dated 25-05-2014:
"The Nisab for silver and the Nisab for the gold will be the same as was prescribed by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself in his blessed era. As far as the Nisab for cash is concerned, most of the world has now adopted gold as a monetary standard, therefore for Zakat on cash, the Nisab of gold will be considered as standard."
3. Zakat becomes compulsory when the above mentioned Nisab remains with someone for one year.
4. No local Jama'at or individual is authorized to distribute the Zakat money at his own discretion.
5. 100% of Zakat amount shall be deposited to the Central Reserve Fund.

You are requested to properly publicize these instructions among all the members of your Jama'at through Friday sermons, circulars and monthly Gazettes etc. Jazzakomullah

May Allah enable us all to understand the importance and fulfil the requirements of this important pillar of Islam. Aamin.