

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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National Solidarity in the Face of Crises

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, “**Help one another to do what is right and good.**” I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Noble societies are coherent and cooperative ones that live in solidarity, especially at times of crises. Our Prophet (PBUH) described these virtuous communities as saying, “The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “The relationship of the believer with another believer is like (the bricks of) a building, each strengthens the other.” He (PBUH) illustrated this by interlacing the fingers of both his hands.”

The management of crises requires having national solidarity in various ways, including: avoiding all forms of fraud, monopoly and

exploitation. Our pure religion strictly forbids these negative defects. The Shari'ah strongly prohibits cheating in all its forms. Among the early verses revealed from the Glorious Quran in Medina was the Almighty Allah's saying, **"Woe to those who give short measure, who demand of other people full measure for themselves; but give less than they should when it is they who weigh or measure for others. Do these people not realize that they will be raised; on a mighty Day; a day when everyone will stand before the Lord of the Worlds."** Allah also said in the Qur'an reported Prophet Shuaib, "My people, in fairness, give full measure and weight. Do not withhold from people things that are rightly theirs, and do not spread corruption in the land." Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "He who cheats us is none of us."

The Islamic Shari'ah also forbids all forms of monopoly and exploitation, because these are forms of manipulating people's livelihood and the basics of their lives for the purpose of achieving illegal gains at the expense of people's difficulties and hardships. The Almighty Allah said, **"You who believe, do not wrongfully consume each other's wealth but trade by mutual consent. Do not kill each other, for Allah is merciful to you."** The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Everything belonging to a Muslim is inviolable for a Muslim; his honor, his blood and property." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "None withholds goods till the price rises except a sinner." Thus, the one who hoards goods is deprived of goodness and patriotism because he gives preference to his personal interests to all

humanitarian, religious and national considerations. Therefore, such person deserves punishment from the Almighty Allah and hatred from people.

If the monopolist and hoarder know that the money they earn from monopoly and exploitation would be destructive to them on the Day of Resurrection, this would be a deterrent to them from that injustice. The Almighty Allah says, **“Anyone who does so will carry it with him on the Day of Resurrection.”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, “He who brings goods for sale is blessed with good fortune, but he who keeps them till the price rises is accursed.” He (PBUH) also said, “Cursed is he, the worshipper of the dinar and dirham.”

However, the honest national merchant is the one who does not deceive, cheat or betray. Rather, his patriotism, especially in times of crises, drives him to reduce the margin of his profits in order to alleviate people’s burdens. There is no doubt that this is a form of compassion for which he is rewarded by the Almighty Allah. Allah has promised such persons with great reward as the Prophet (PBUH) said, “The truthful and trusty merchant will be with with the prophets, the upright, and the martyrs.” He (PBUH) also said, “May Allah show mercy to a man who adopts a kind attitude when he sells, buys and demands for the repayment of loans.”

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

Times of crises require altruism, not selfishness and exploitation; They require compassion, not cruelty. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while the neighbor to his side goes hungry." These times require compassion, generosity, and giving as the Almighty Allah said, "**They give them preference over themselves, even if they too are poor: those who are saved from their own souls' greed are truly successful.**" The Prophet (PBUH) said, "When the people of Ash'ari tribe ran short of food during the battles, or the food of their families in Medina ran short, they would collect all their remaining food in one sheet and then distribute it among themselves equally by measuring it with a bowl. So, these people are from me, and I am from them."

There is no doubt that this solidarity plays a great role in strengthening social and human ties and fostering love and affection among members of society. Therefore, the Islamic Shari'ah came to promote it. The Almighty Allah says: "**Help one another to do what is right and good; do not help one another towards sin and hostility.**" This cooperation is manifested through spending in all charitable aspects, especially providing food for the poor and fulfilling their needs as Allah says, "**They give food to the poor, the orphan, and the captive, though**

they love it themselves, saying, 'We feed you for the sake of Allah alone: We seek neither recompense nor thanks from you. We fear the Day of our Lord--a woefully grim Day.' So Allah will save them from the woes of that Day, give them radiance and gladness, and reward them, for their steadfastness, with a Garden and silken robes." Allah also said about the people of Paradise, "To feed at a time of hunger, an orphan relative, or a poor person in distress." The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Feed people, strengthen the ties of kinship, and pray at night when others are asleep, you will enter Paradise in peace." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "The best amongst you are the ones who provide food [for the poor]."

May Allah save our country, Egypt and all other countries of the world!