

Speech by

Professor Mohamed Mohamed Aboumoussa

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah, Lord of all worlds, and may peace and blessings be upon the Master of the first and the last, and upon his family and all who follow them in goodness until the Day of Judgment.

To begin, Allah Almighty knows that I have found nothing with which I can truly repay you for the honor you have bestowed upon me, an honor that came as a surprise and one I had not been seeking, except to pray that Allah have mercy on your departed ones, grant strength and dignity to your living, be with you in His support and victory, and bless you with a love of all that is good and a devotion to righteous deeds for the benefit of this ummah, which our Lord has described as the best ummah ever brought forth for humankind. I ask that Allah make you worthy successors to worthy predecessors. Allah has ennobled this land, choosing the best of His creation from it, may blessings and peace be upon him, and revealing the best of His Books in the tongue of its people, confirming earlier scriptures and standing as a guardian over them. Upon the soil of this land, Allah then raised up the finest generation on earth, the Companions of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, whom He made radiant beacons of light; whichever of them you follow, you will be rightly guided. He also caused the hearts of people to yearn toward this land, which He distinguished with the Two Holy Mosques, and I pray that He continue to pour His bounty upon its all eras.

Allah has honored you and planted in your hearts a love of good for all the people, so that you show compassion to those among them who excel in any branch of knowledge, regardless of religion, gender, or race. He has settled His words in your hearts: "And We have certainly honored the children of Adam." He has told us that He does not burden any soul beyond its capacity and mentioned "capacity" as the utmost limit of a soul's strength. This is a clear directive that each of us should expend the best of their ability in the work entrusted to them, and that each of us should be a new building block in the field in which they serve, just as the Prophet, peace be upon him, was a unique cornerstone in his own. The almighty Allah has further guided us to direct that utmost effort toward excellence, informing us that "[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed." Thus, all deeds are alike in form; what truly counts is the quality of excellence. Allah has honored you by making you among the finest leaders of the finest ummah brought forth for humankind, and He has granted you a clear understanding of what produces such a community that is knowledge, excellence, mastery of one's work, full dedication to it, and love for caring for its people. "And say, "Do [as you will], for Allah will see your deeds, and [so, will] His Messenger and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the unseen and the witnessed, and He will inform you of what you used to do."

And may the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.