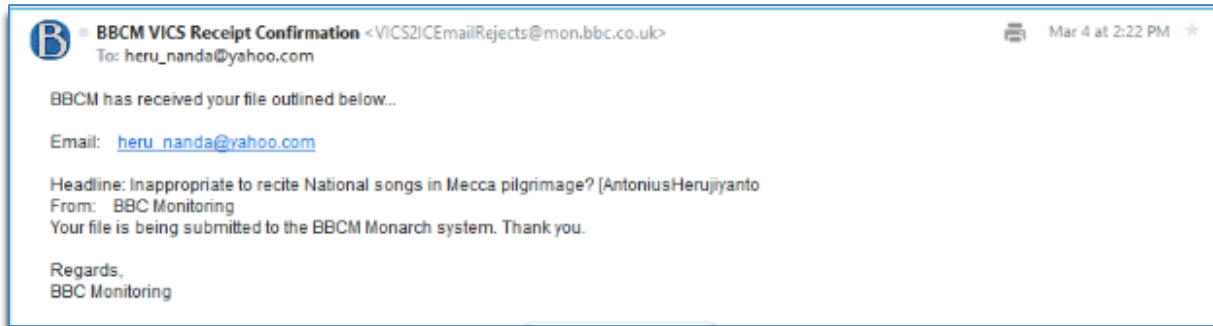


# Inappropriate to Recite National Songs in Mecca Pilgrimage?



In response to a recent polemic and debate on the actions of Indonesians reciting National songs while making a pilgrimage to Mecca, the Saudi Ambassador to Indonesia, Syeikh Usamah Muhammad Al-Syu'aiby, has said that such an action is not appropriate and prohibited.

He said Tuesday (on 27 February) that if Indonesian congregations and jamaah were allowed to chant and recite their national songs and other non-religious verses while making their pilgrimage, it will become a precedent for promoting everyone else to do the same thing, causing quite a commotion.

Mentioning the inappropriate past incidence of the Shi'a's staging a rally with their non-religious yelling, tearing kiswah Ka'bah [the stone or Hajar Aswad cover], and many more, he said that the religious journey to Mecca is supposed to be a religious ritual and dzikir or a form of worshiping in praise of Allah and nothing else.

He also said, however, that it might be due to their lack of understanding on the true meaning of making a pilgrimage.

Expecting that they would not repeat it, he stated that they, indeed, remain *ahlusunnah wal jamaah* or group of Sunnis.

He admittedly said that his statement was due to his being a Muslim who was coincidentally a Saudi Ambassador to Indonesia.

*Source: SKR/MAS, hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2018/02/28/136694/soal-jamaah-umrah-lantunkan-syair-dubes-saudi-itu-tak-pantas.html, "Soal Jamaah Umrah Lantunkan Syair, Dubes Saudi: itu Tak Pantas (Saudi Ambassador: not appropriate to chant National songs while making hajj pilgrimage)", in Indonesian, 28 Jan 18.*

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