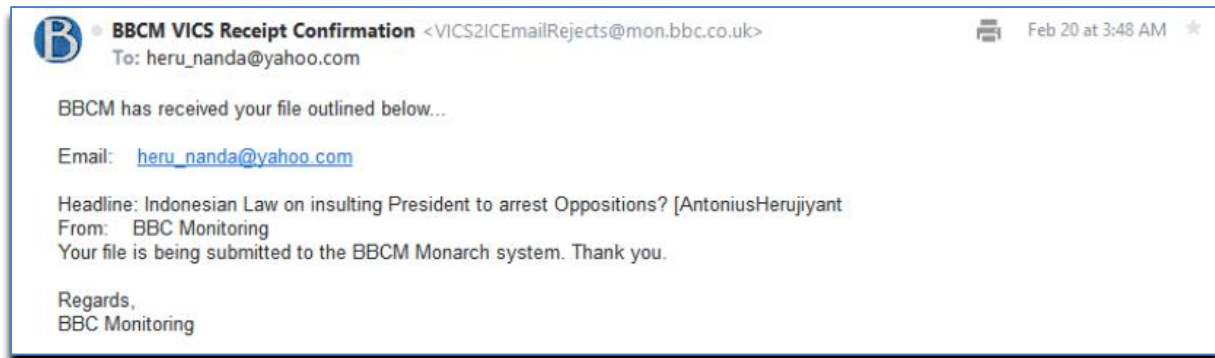


Indonesian Law on Insulting President To Arrest Oppositions?



In the process of amending the bill of Criminal Code or KUHP, both the government and the House of Representatives or DPR has tried to revive the article 134 on insulting the government including attacking against both President and vice-President.

According to the former chief of the Indonesian Constitutional Court, Mahfud MD, the article has been erased as seen in the Constitutional Court's decree No. 013-022/PUU-IV/2006. He said Tuesday (on 6 February) that not only would reviving the article be like putting a curb on free speech in the country, but it would also be potentially made used to arrest those opposing against the government.

Mentioning that the Constitutional Court's decision is final and legally binding, Mahfud said there should be new reasons to revive the Article such as to improve or to re-appropriate it.

He also said that providing the article with new reasons was very important. This way, it would prevent the Constitutional Court from mixing up the so-called legal and political affairs.

He suggested that before deliberating KUHP bill especially in dealing with the article on insulting the government including attacking against both President and vice-President, the legislators previously ask for having public opinions or inputs and recommendations from the people about it.

Source: Ameera, arrahmah/2018/02/07/mahfud-md-khawatir-pasal-penghinaan-presiden-dimanfaatkan-untuk-tangkapi-oposisi/, "Mahfud MD Khawatir Pasal Penghinaan Presiden Dimanfaatkan untuk Tangkapi Oposisi (Former chief of Constitutional Court says that law on insulting President not to be used to arrest the Oppositions)", in Indonesian, 7 Feb18.

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