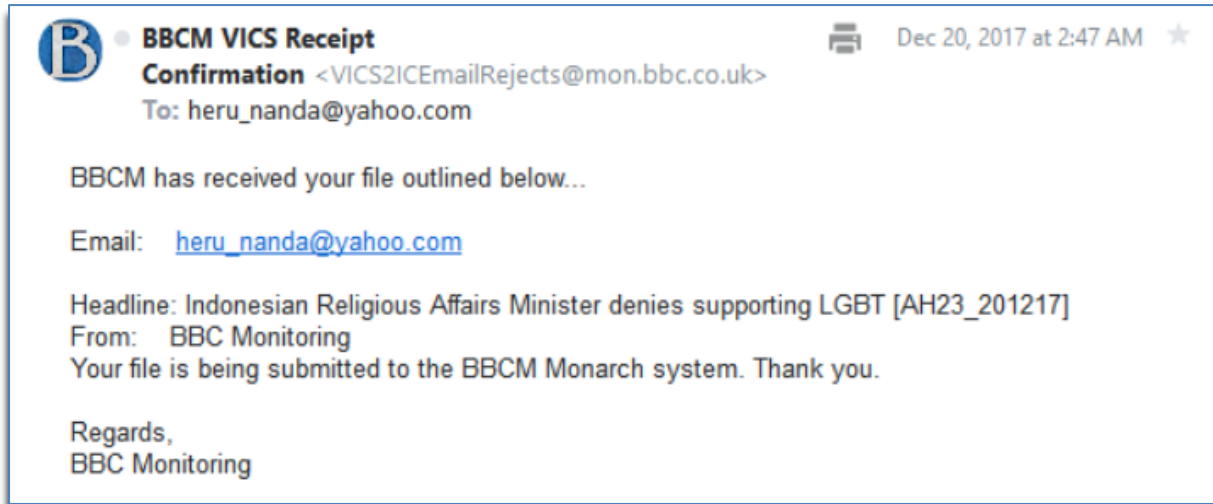


Indonesian Religious Affairs Minister Denies Supporting LGBT



[AH23_201217 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The Religious Affairs Minister Lukman Hakim Saifuddin has denied that he supports LGBT [or Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender]. It was his response to the viral information in Indonesian social media, saying that not only did the Minister attend an Appreciation event held by LGBT groups, but he also handed over a Prize of Appreciation to a group of LGBT.

According to him, all he has said about LGBT people does not mean that he agrees with the group's actions and attitudes.

The Minister was quoted by *hidayatullah.com* on Monday (18 December) as saying that he did not believe any religions tolerating the typical actions conducted by LGBT people. He further said, in his official opening speech of an event entitled “*Gebyar kerukunan* [or the golden tolerance] and Launching E-Government” in Yogyakarta.

In the meantime, on the previous day (on 17 December), while he was delivering his speech in the grand rally defending Palestine in Monas [National Monument] Jakarta, the demonstrators shouted, showing their “Refuse LGBT” banners in front of him.

Mentioning that the same sex marriage was illegal, Lukman said that the most important thing was the appropriate attitudes towards their sexual orientation since there were many different views about it.

He further said that all those different views should be appreciated and respected. Instead of staying away from LGBT people, however, Indonesian people may be kind to them, approaching them to return to the correct paths of life and the like.

According to him, his attending the **Tasrif Award** to LGBT and LGBTIQ [or Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Insexual, and Queer] (LGBTIQ) should be regarded as recognising the Indonesian communities with their different natural condition.

Source: SKR/MAS,hidayatullah.com/berita/nasional/read/2017/12/19/130964/menag-bantah-mendukung-lgbt.html, “Menag Bantah Mendukung LGBT (Indonesian religious minister denies supporting LGBT)”, in *Indonesian*, 19 Dec 17.

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