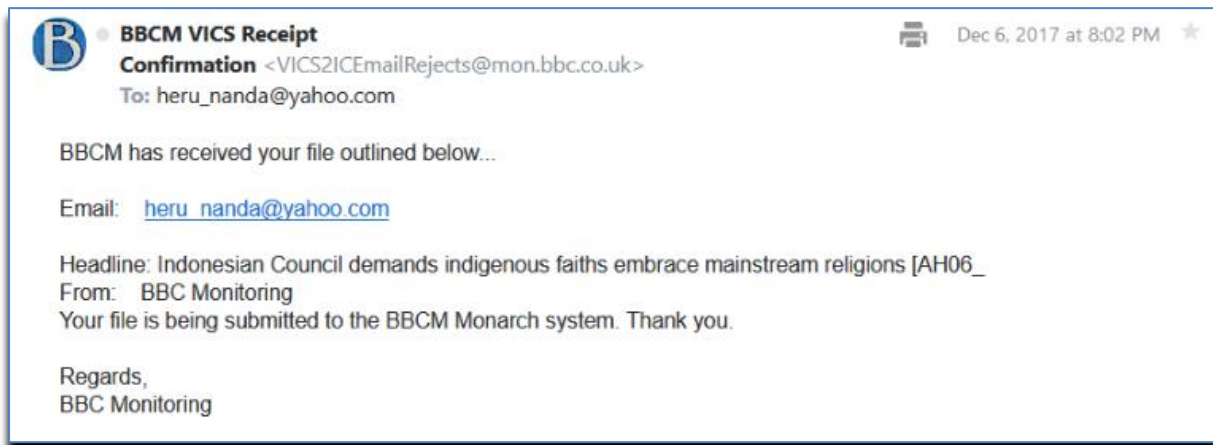


Indonesian Council Demands Indigenous Faiths Embrace Mainstream Religions



[AH06_061217 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The Chairman of Da'wah Department of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), cleric Abdusshomad Buchori, has said that instead of accommodating the indigenous faiths as the same as those of religions, the Indonesian government should have recommended that they embrace the existing recognized religions in Indonesia.

[The cleric's statement is another response to the Constitutional Court's decision (on Tuesday, 7 November) to allow followers of local Indonesian "religions" or indigenous faiths to state their beliefs on their national identity cards, or KTP. Indonesia only officially recognizes six religions, namely, Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism.]

According to the cleric, who is also the chairman of MUI Chapter East Java, the Indonesian indigenous faiths cannot be treated as the same as the six recognized religions in Indonesia.

Mentioning the principles of state philosophy Pancasila, he said that the first one was the Belief in Almighty God. All Indonesians should, thus, embrace any one of those six religions.

To him, it is the government's obligation to guide all followers of many different Indonesian indigenous faiths, who are called "Penghayat Kepercayaan" or "Believers of the Faith", to become the followers of a certain mainstream and recognized religion.

The cleric also said that the Indonesian founding fathers had invented Pancasila to accommodate religions especially the Muslims. Islam is not, therefore, against Pancasila. All principles of Pancasila can be found in Koran.

He concluded that it was hard to understand the Constitutional Court's decision to allow followers of Indonesian indigenous faiths to state their beliefs on their national identity cards, or KTP.

It would be acceptable, however, if the government provided "Penghayat Kepercayaan" with different national identity cards.

Source: YGN/MAS, hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2017/12/06/129745/mui-harusnya-negara-bimbing-aliran-kepercayaan-agar-beragama.html, "MUI: Harusnya Negara Bimbing Aliran Kepercayaan Agar Beragama (MUI: Government should have guided Penghayat Kepercayaan to embrace recognized religions)", in Indonesian, 06 Dec 17.

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