## Indonesian Youth Organization Leader Strongly Criticises British Ambassador

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British Ambassador to Indonesia, Moazzam Malik, has paid a visit to two Indonesian provinces, Papua and West Papua. It was meant to discuss on issues of mutual interest such as climate change, education and development. He has also been scheduled to meet with the regional administrators, businessmen, communities, and the academicians of the two provinces.

While doing so, Ambassador Moazzam Malik, made a comment on the two provinces in his Twitter. In his official account, @MoazzamTMalik, he wrote (on Sunday, 19 November) that during his journey with his teams in Papua and West Papua, they rented 12 cars. He perplexed, however, wondering that all of the drivers were non-indigenous Papuans.

He further stated, questioning whether or not the indigenous Papuans have got their rights to get a job?

In response to the Ambassador's questions, the General Chairman of Pemuda Muhammadiyah or the Youth wing of Muhammadiyah (the second largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia), Dahnil Anzar Simanjuntak, said Tuesday (on 21 November) that it was not very decent at all for Moazzam Malik as an Ambassador to say so in his Twitter.

"To me, the British Ambassador's statement in his Twitter was not socially acceptable at all. It was not very decent of him to do so," Dahnil said in his written statement on Tuesday (21 November).

He also said that the Ambassador's statement was tendentious, ignoring the diplomatic ethics.

According to him, Moazzam Malik has made such inappropriate comments in the middle or while conducting a visit to two provinces of a sovereign country where he is assigned the task of becoming his country's Ambassador.

"As an Indonesian citizen, I certainly have an objection to such an attitude, ignoring the diplomatic ethics," he said, adding that the Ambassador did not seem to bother finding out the background and reasons [for coincidently having no indigenous Papuan drivers].

[Racism is against the law in Indonesia. It was also for the same reason that many Indonesia people were recently very angry when the new Jakarta governor mentioned "pribumi" or indigenous people in his first political speech.]

Dahnil Anzar Simanjuntak also insisted that the Indonesian government summon and talk about it to the Ambassador.

Source: IS/WM,<u>kiblat/2017/11/21/berkicau-soal-papua-di-twitter-duta-besar-inggris-dinilai-abai-etika-diplomasi/,</u> "Berkicau Soal Papua di Twitter, Duta Besar Inggris Dinilai Abai Etika Diplomasi (British Ambassador considered ignoring diplomatic ethics for making inappropriate comments on Papua)", in Indonesian, 21 Nov 17.

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