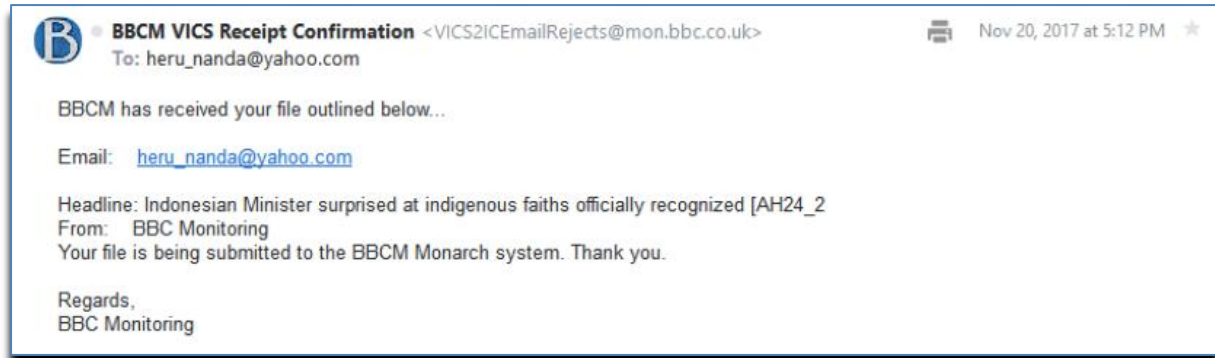


Indonesian Minister Surprised at Indigenous Faiths Officially Recognized



[AH24_201117 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Lukman Hakim Saifuddin, has admitted his being surprised at the decision made by the Constitutional Court to allow followers of local Indonesian indigenous “religions” to state their beliefs on their national identity cards, or KTP and family registration cards (KK).

Complaining that the Constitutional Court had never previously coordinated or talked about such a religious matters to his ministry, Lukman said that it was, indeed, very unusual.

According to him, his office is used to being previously asked and informed about the laws on religious matters which are being reviewed and examined by the Court.

“The decision made was, indeed, dealing with the “religion” column [on Indonesian National identity cards]; the Religious Affairs Ministry really wonders whether or not such a lack of co-ordination was a natural co-incidence but it was factual,” he was quoted as saying by *hidayatullah.com* in Jakarta last week.

The Minister stated, therefore, that his office would not get involved in deciding whether or not to support the Court’s decision.

Lukman Hakim Saifuddin pointed out, however, that the Constitutional Court’s decision to recognize many different Indonesian indigenous faiths was final and legally binding.

He also said that he would not go as far as finding out whether or not his Ministry would still serve and take care of the affairs of the Indonesian indigenous faiths.

Source: YGN,hidayatullah.com/berita/nasional/read/2017/11/20/128412/kemenag-mengaku-kaget-dengan-putusan-mk-soal-aliran-kepercayaan.html, “Kemenag Mengaku Kaget dengan Putusan MK Soal Aliran Kepercayaan (Minister of Religious Affairs surprised at Constitutional Court ‘s decision to recognize local Indonesian indigenous faiths as religions)”, in Indonesian, 20 Nov 17.

BROADCAST DATE/TIME	HEADLINE	SOURCE	STATUS	COUNTRY	WORD COUNT	CREATING USER	DATE/TIME SUBMITTED
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