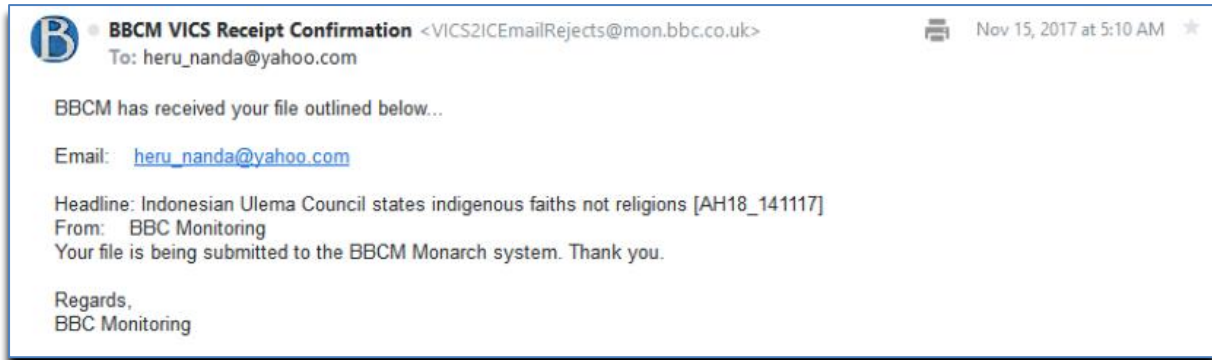


# Indonesian Ulema Council States Indigenous Faiths Not Religions



[AH18\_141117 AntoniusHerujiyanto\_USD\_Yk]

The General Chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), cleric Ma'ruf Amin has objected to the Constitutional Court's decision (on Tuesday, 7 November) to allow followers of *Penghayat Kepercayaan* [PK] or indigenous faiths to state their beliefs on their national identity cards (KTP). He said that PK was not a religion.

[All Indonesian citizens have to fill in the "religion" column on their identity cards. Although they may leave it blank, but this would make them have no legal certainty or be treated unfairly. They would, for example, be faced with difficulties in getting family registration cards (KK) and their e-national identity cards or e-KTP. There have also been issues agreeing that the very column in Indonesian identity cards should not have been there in the first place.]

"I do not agree with the decision to put their PK beliefs in the 'religion' column on their identity cards, since PK [the Indonesian indigenous faiths] are not religions," the cleric said during a National Da'wah Discussion in Rivoli Hotel, Jakarta, on Monday (13 November).

Mentioning about the conventional standard form of an identity card, he disagreed with another idea of providing another column in the National Identity Cards to satisfy the followers of the Indonesian indigenous faiths.

The cleric stated, however, that MUI would respect The Constitutional Court's decision especially that it is final and legally binding.

It was reportedly said that the Court's decision was the result of the judicial review against Indonesian Law No. 24/2013 on the Civil Administration Regulations filed [on 28 September 2016] by Nggay Mehng Tana, Pagar Demanra Sirait, Arnol Purba, and Carlim. They are the followers of four [out of many] Indonesian indigenous faiths, namely, Marapu, Paralim, Ugamo Bangsa Batak and Sapto Darmo. They demanded that the followers of *Penghayat Kepercayaan* [PK] or indigenous faiths may state their beliefs on their Family Cards (KK) and e-National Identity Cards (e-KTP).

Source: Afriza/MR, [kiblat/2017/11/14/mui-tolak-penghayat-kepercayaan-masuk-ktp/](http://kiblat/2017/11/14/mui-tolak-penghayat-kepercayaan-masuk-ktp/), "MUI Tolak Penghayat Kepercayaan Masuk KTP (MUI refuses to allow followers of Penghayat Kepercayaan [PK] or indigenous faiths to state their beliefs on their KTP or national identity cards)", in *Indonesian*, 14 November 17.

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