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Indonesian Largest Organization Congress To Deal with Religious Radicalism

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The Steering Committee [SC] of the National Congress and Grand Conference of NU [the largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia) has said that the events would be held in Lombok Island (on 23-25 November 2017). The General Chairman of NU, who is also the chairman of SC of the Congress and Conference, cleric Mustofa Aqil Siroj, said that the focus of the events would be dealing with the challenges of the Indonesian Nation in the present increasing complex global and digital era.

During their meeting at Al-Muhajirin Pesantren (Islamic boarding school) Purwakarta (West Java) held on Friday (10 November), they were concerned with the Indonesian problems in dealing with economy and religious radicalism.

Mentioning that NU was a religious social organization or *jam'iyah diniyah ijtma'iyah*, which means highlighting moderate principles in its activities, cleric Mustofa Aqil Siroj said the two National problems would be approached by the very principles of NU.

According to the cleric, religious radicalism and economic problems are closely related. The research findings (actual data) have pointed out that if the people are prosperous, they will not fall in the trap of religious radicalism. The promised financial rewards have become the strong magnet attracting radical masses.

The cleric also clarified that the ideological tasks NU are to keep guarding the country from the attacks of radicalism, to well establish Pancasila [the Indonesian ideology consisting of the five principles], to guard the solidity of NKRI [the Unitary Republic of Indonesia], and to empower the people for their prosperity.

Not only are the results of the meeting about the list of topics to be discussed (on economy and radicalism as well as on the problems dealing with the law), but they are also about those who would be invited as the speakers at the two grand events in Lombok Island (on 23-25 November).

The SC decided that they would invite the National Indonesian Police chief, General Tito Karnavian, Home Affairs Minister Tjahjo Kumolo, and two important NU figures, namely, Rumadi Ahmad and Prof Arief Anshory Yusuf.

Source: Bilai,voa-islam/read/indonesiana/2017/11/10/54289/pramunas-nu-soroti-kesenjangan-ekonomi-danradikalisme-agama/#sthash.nCSou7Rk.dpbs, "Pra-Munas NU Soroti Kesenjangan Ekonomi dan Radikalisme Agama (NU Congress to deal with economic problems and religious radicalism)", in Indonesian, 10 Nov 17.

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