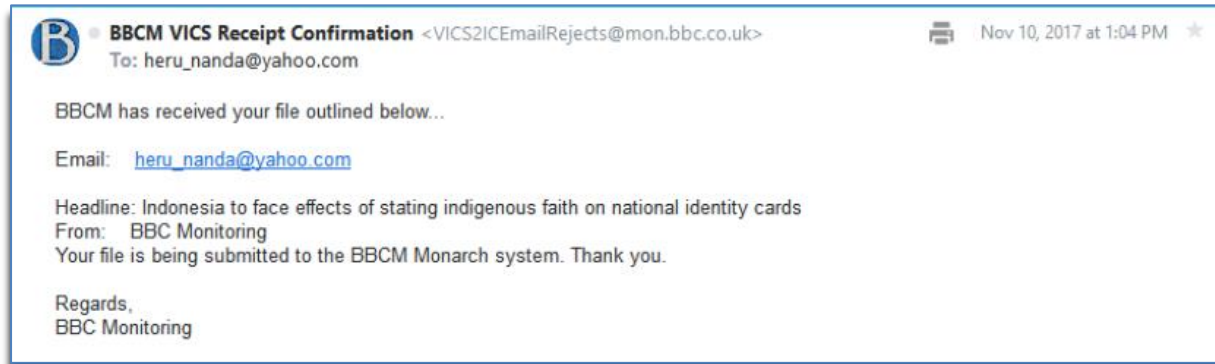


Indonesia To Face Effects of Stating Indigenous Faith on National Identity Cards?



[AH12_081117 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The Director of School of Thought and Human Rights Education (Pusdikham) of Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof Hamka (Uhamka) Jakarta, Maneger Nasution, has said that the state should be prepared for dealing with all consequences of a recent decision by Indonesia's Constitutional Court.

The Court's decision (on Tuesday, 7 November) is 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. It is contradictory to the reality that none of the indigenous faiths has been officially recognized.]

Having declared that the word "religion" stated on at Article 61 [1 and 2] and Article 64 [1 and 5] of the Civil Administration Law contradicts the 1945 Constitution and is not legally binding, the Court suggested create a seventh category, namely, "Penghayat Kepercayaan" or "Believers of the Faith" for the followers of many different Indonesian indigenous faiths.

[The Indonesian government demands that all Indonesian citizens 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.]

The Court's decision was the result of the judicial review against the Civil Administration Law filed 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.

According to them, the Civil Administration Law violates the principle of equality before the law and were discriminatory.

[The Court's decision significantly contributes to great steps for religious freedom in the country.]

Mentioning that the decision is final and officially binding, Maneger Nasution of Pusdikham said that the government should be consistent in its implementation especially in dealing with many different sects in "Penghayat Kepercayaan" or "Believers of the Faith.'

In the meantime, the case of Ahmadiyah [the Indonesian Ahmadiyah Congregation (JAI)] is still there to solve.

“Admittedly, Indonesia is not a religious state, but its people are religious citizens. The government should, indeed, be there to administer and arrange their interfaith relation,” he was quoted as saying by *hidayatullah.com* in Jakarta on Wednesday (8 November).

Source: YGN/MAS, hidayatullah.com/berita/nasional/read/2017/11/08/127465/pencantuman-penghayat-kepercayaan-di-ktp-pemerintah-harus-siap-dampaknya.html. “Pencantuman Penghayat Kepercayaan di KTP, Pemerintah Harus Siap Dampaknya (Indonesian government to face effects of stating indigenous faith on national identity cards)”, in Indonesian, 08 Nov 17.

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