

Indonesian Ulema Not To Vote for Those Supporting Law on Mass Organizations



[AH01_011117 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The (conservative) National Movement to Save Ulema (GNPF Ulama) has given their response to the ratification of Perppu [the government regulation in lieu of a law] No. 2/2017 on Mass Organizations as law. In their press conference held on Monday (30 October) in Jakarta Grand Sahid Hotel, one of their chairmen, cleric Abah Rouf read their statement, saying that they would not vote political parties supporting New Law on Mass Organizations in the coming Indonesian elections.

"We will not support and vote for those political parties in the coming elections," the cleric, who is also the most important ulema figure of the Adz Dzikra Council, was quoted as saying by *Indopos.co.id* on Monday.

According to him, GNPF Ulama firmly refuse the new law on Mass Organizations especially due to our belief in Islamic teachings which say that it is an obligation for Muslims to resist and prevent any immoral acts and evil deeds from taking place.

"Constitutionally speaking, we cannot accept the process of its ratification," cleric Rouf said, adding that it was an authoritative act [the majority wins all].

He also said that not only would the law tend to violate freedom of organization, but it would also limit Islamic da'wah activities. [He would not mention, of course, that such religious missionary work had been frequently made wrong use to achieve political interests.]

Promising to stage rallies during any court sessions on the new law, the cleric said that GNPF Ulama would continue carrying on their [Islamic] struggles.

The press conference was also attended by many different [conservative] ulema including the General Chairman and the General Secretary of GNPF-Ulama, cleric Bachtiar Natsir and Munarman, respectively.

Source: SOnline, suara-islam/read/kabar/nasional/24029/-GNPF-Ulama-tak-akan-Pilih-dan-Dukung-Partai-partai-Pendukung-Perppu-Ormas, "Ulama tak akan Pilih dan Dukung Partai-partai Pendukung Perppu Ormas (Ulema would not vote political parties supporting New Law on Mass Organizations in the coming Indonesian elections)", in Indonesian, 30 Oct 17.

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