

Indonesian Council Bans on Politicizing (Islamic) Religion

[Antonius Herujiyanto AH35_300418]

The Indonesian Ulema Council or MUI has firmly prohibited any actions to make use of Islam including its attributes to gain sympathy and practical political interests.

According to the Secretary of Fatwa Commission of MUI, cleric Asrorun Ni'am Sholeh, MUI strongly bans on politicizing (Islamic) religion during both regional and general elections.

The cleric also said Saturday (on 28 April) that Islamic teachings strictly hold the principles of religious norms never be used to justify gaining practical political interests, such as only during the weeks of regional and general elections, Muslima or Islamic women suddenly wear hijab in order to gain sympathy.

Admitting that Islam does not separate religion from politics, he said that religion should be the guiding source of the state political life including all political activities. It is also part of Islamic teachings to tell Muslims how to elect good leaders.

Source: *MJ/MR, kiblata/2018/04/30/mui-tegas-larang-gunakan-agama-untuk-kepentingan-politik-sesaat/*, "MUI Tegas Larang Gunakan Agama untuk Kepentingan Politik Sesaat (MUI firmly bans on making use of (Islamic) religion to gain sympathy and practical political interests)", in *Indonesian*, 30 April 18.

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