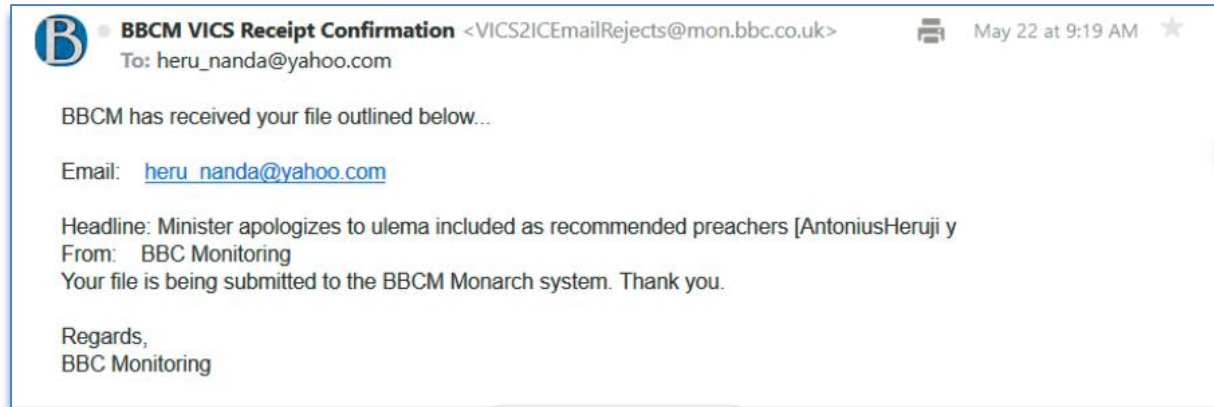


Minister Apologizes to Ulema Included as Recommended Preachers



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH23_210518]

In response to the list of 200 recommended muballigh or Islamic preachers released (on Friday, 18 May 2018) by the Religious Affairs Ministry, some ulema have expressed their feeling awkward [especially that many “popular clerics”, such as cleric Habib Rizieq, cleric Zaitun, cleric Abdul Somad and those of the 212 alumni group are not in the list]. Some of them have even demanded that their names be removed from the list.

According to Religious Affairs Minister Lukman Hakim Saifuddin, the release is one of those responses to the demand and need of the people to have list of muballigh.

He also apologized to ulema feeling awkward and having an objection that their names had been put on the list.

Those with objection against the list are, among others, the General Chairman of Muhammadiyah Dr. Haedar Nashir, NU General Chairman cleric Said Aqil Siroj, and noted muballigh such as Yusuf Mansur and Fahmi Salim.

Mentioning that the list was not the results of selection, accreditation, and standardization, the Minister said Monday (on 21 May) that it was nothing else but one of the ministry’s ways of providing the people with services. The list was based on the proposals filed by many different groups and parties. It would also be updated regularly.

He also said that any group and individuals might use WhatsApp social media (namely, through +6281184974920) to file their proposals and even some inputs and suggestions.

The list was based on the order of the proposals received by his ministry. They were sent by, among others, Islamic community organizations, big mosques’ managements, and many more.

Source: MAS, hidayatullah.com/berita/nasional/read/2018/05/21/142816/menag-mohon-maaf-kepada-muballigh-yang-tak-nyaman-dirilis.html, “Menag Mohon Maaf kepada Muballigh yang Tak Nyaman Dirilis (Religious Affairs Minister apologizes to ulema with objection that their names on list of recommended preachers)”, in Indonesian, 21 May 18.

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