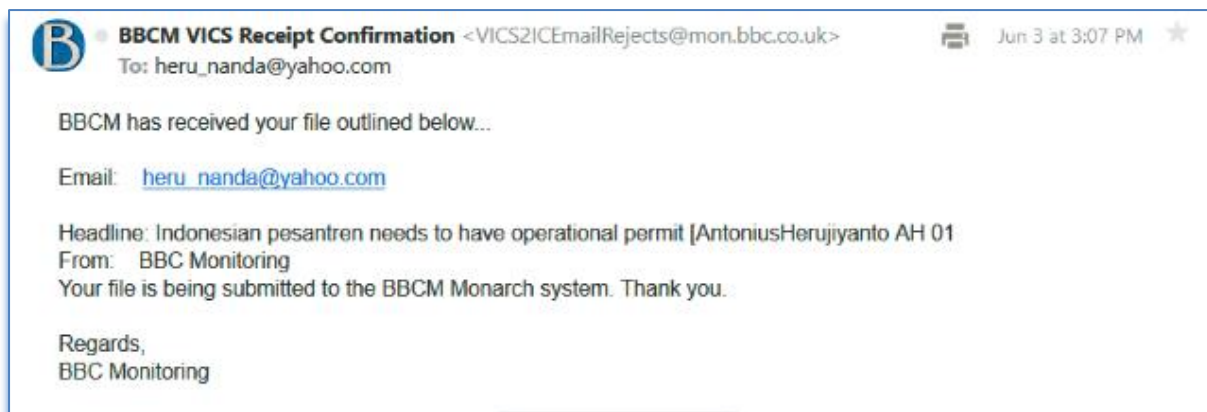


Indonesian Pesantren Needs To Have Operational Permit



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH 01_310518]

Indonesian Religious Affairs Ministry has issued the so-called operational permit procedures of pesantren or the Islamic boarding schools. It was signed by the Director of the Ministry's Directorate General of Islamic school and pesantren or PD Pontren, Ahmad Zayadi, on Wednesday (30 May).

Mentioning three crucial points of the procedures, he explained that the decision was meant to maintain the values and basic principles of pesantren education.

The decision No. 2050/Dt.V.4/Hm.01/05/2018 is addressed to the Chairmen of Religious Department in all provinces in the country.

According to him, the first point of the operational permit deals with the obligation of every Kantor Kemenag or Provincial Office of Religious Department to carefully analyse, look into the existing data, and to visit to the pesantren applying for the permit. The office should make sure that the pesantren meets with five (5) physical and "spiritual" requirements.

The physical requirements are the numbers of the clerics and teachers; the numbers of the santri or pesantren students; the decent building or boarding house; the mosque or mushalla; and the typical pesantren Yellow Books and the Islamic curriculum.

The "spiritual" or *ruuhul ma'had* requirements comprise of *jiwa keilmuan* [the scientific approaches used], *keikhlasan* [sincerity], *kesederhanaan* [simple minded], *ukhuwah* [brotherhood]; *kemandirian* [independence], *jiwa bebas* [spiritual freedom]; *jiwa keseimbangan* [spiritual balance]; and *nasionalisme* [nationalism].

The second point deals with the obligation of every Provincial Office of Religious Department to issue a permit letter saying that a certain pesantren has met all the requirements to run a pesantren. The letter also mentions that the pesantren is not against the 1945 Indonesian Constitution, *Pancasila*, *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, and NKRI [the Unitary Republic of Indonesia].

The last point is about the obligation of every Provincial Office of Religious Department to guide and support any pesantren applying for the operational permit.

Source: MAS, [hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2018/05/31/143428/kemenag-terbitkan-edaran-prosedur-izin-operasional-pondok-pesantren.html](https://hidayatullah.berita.nasional/read/2018/05/31/143428/kemenag-terbitkan-edaran-prosedur-izin-operasional-pondok-pesantren.html). "Kemenag Terbitkan Edaran Prosedur Izin Operasional Pondok Pesantren (Indonesian Religious Affairs Ministry issues operational permit procedures of pesantren or the Islamic boarding schools)", in Indonesian, 31 May 18.

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