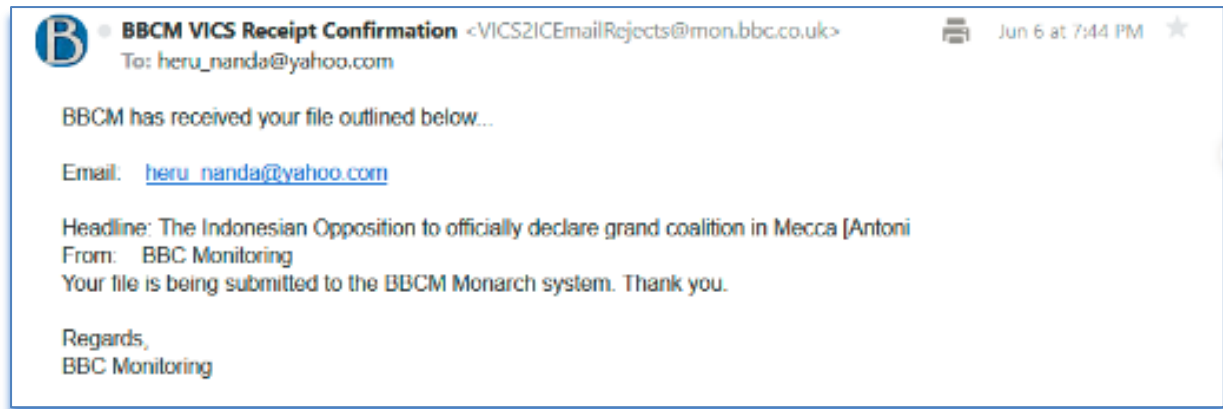


The Indonesian Opposition To Officially Declare Grand Coalition in Mecca



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH05_040618]

The Islamic PAN [Awakening Mandate Party] Honorary Council Chairman Amien Rais and Gerindra Party Chairman Prabowo Subianto have met the important figure of 212 Alumni Brotherhood (PA 212) who is also a Grand Imam of FPI [the (radical) Defenders of Islam Front] Habib Rizieq Shihab, discussing about forming the so-called “Koalisi Keumatan” or the “(Islamic) People Coalition”. The meeting took place in Mecca, Saudi Arabia on Saturday (2 June).

According to one of PAN leaders who accompanied Amien to see Rizieq in Mecca, the one hour meeting had been used to discuss about the future Indonesia.

According to him, Indonesian Muslims should be united in facing with both the 2018 legislative elections and the 2019 Presidential elections.

In the meantime, an important figure of FPI, Habib Muchsin Alatas, said that during the meeting, Habib Rizieq had stated that he only expected that Indonesia would change into a better and more prosperous country and that he would not dream to become one of those 2019 presidential candidates.

The Indonesian political observer from the National Survey Media (Median), Rico Marbun, said, however, that the meeting was an official declaration saying that Gerindra, PAN, PBB, PKS and Habib Rizieq would form a grand political coalition to race against the incumbent President Jokowi in the 2019 general elections.

Rico concluded, therefore, that the meeting was to form a grand coalition [named “Koalisi Keumatan” or the “(Islamic) People Coalition”] with a decision to select their Presidential and vice Presidential hopefuls later in accordance to the latest development in the field.

Source: AA/UM/BR, <http://nasional.republika.co.id/berita/nasional/news-analysis/18/06/04/p9rz0s415-menggagas-koalisi-besar-pilpres-2019-dari-tanah-suci>, “Menggagas Koalisi Besar Pilpres 2019 dari Tanah Suci (The Indonesian Opposition leaders to officially declare grand coalition in facing 2019 Presidential elections)”, in *Indonesian*, 4 June 18.

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