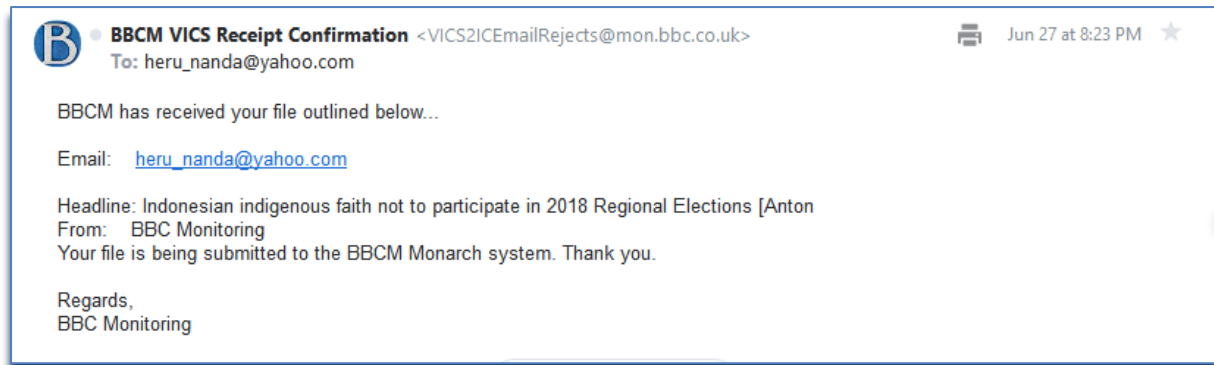


Indonesian Indigenous Faith Not To Participate in 2018 Regional Elections



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH20_250618]

The Indonesian 171 simultaneous regional elections are to take place Wednesday (on 27 June). There have been **152,066,685 registered voters** [more than half the country's population] willing to choose their new executive heads for 17 provinces, 115 regencies and 39 cities.

As for the Indonesian followers of an indigenous faith named "Trah Samin Soerosentiko" in Jepang village, Bojonegoro, Central Java, however, the case is different. Their leader, Hardjo Kardi, 84, has decided not to participate in choosing their new Bojonegoro regent.

According to him, his group of *penghayat kepercayaan* or believers of the faith of Trah Samin Soerosentiko would not exercise their rights to vote for their new Regent.

He said that the four pairs of regential candidates have, one by one, come to the group, asking the Trah Samin for saying prayers so that their becoming residential hopefuls would be successful.

Mentioning that the group had, indeed, promised and already said their prayers for all those four pairs of regential candidates, he said that thousands of his followers would not be able to participate in the regential elections since it would be impossible for them to vote for all those four pairs of candidates.

To them, to vote for only one pair of candidates would hurt the other three, while voting for all of them would be considered illegal and violating the law.

The leader of the indigenous faith group said further that they would participate in the gubernatorial elections since none of the candidates had come to them, asking the group for saying prayers for their successful candidacy. This way, when they vote for one of the gubernatorial hopefuls they would not hurt any of them.

Besides their teaching on never to hurt others, the group, which was founded long before the Dutch colonial time hundreds of years ago, has also other strong principle, namely, not to recognize the word "tax". Tens of their leaders had been imprisoned by the Dutch, but the very "local religion" or rather "indigenous faith" has never stop having followers up to today.

[It was such an encouraging step to take place in Indonesia when Indonesia's Constitutional Court decided on Tuesday (07/11/2017) to allow followers of indigenous faiths to state their beliefs on their national identity cards. It was a lauded major step forward for religious freedom in the country. The Court also recommended the creation of a seventh category - "believers of the faith," or *penghayat kepercayaan* - in addition to the six officially recognized religions - Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism - in Indonesia.]

Source: MH, [suara-islam/pilkada-serentak-pengikut-samin-bojonegoro-pilih-golput/](#), "Pilkada Serentak, Pengikut Samin Bojonegoro Pilih Golput (Believers of the faith of Trah Samin Soerosentiko not to participate in 2018 Simultaneous Regional Elections)", in Indonesian, 25 June 18.

Broadcast Date/Time	Headline	Source	Status	Country	Word Count	Creating User	Date/Time Submitted	
0000 GMT, 25/06/18	Indonesian indigenous faith not to participate in 2018 Regional Elections [AntoniusHerujiyanto_AH20250618]	INSEM1	EDT	INDONESIA	474	Antonius Heru...	1322 GMT, 27/06/18	Clone