

Indonesian Council's Clarification of Its Fatwa on Measles-Rubella Vaccination



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH19_290818]

Some Indonesian Islamic communities have been making inquiries about the fatwa issued by MUI [the Indonesian Ulema Council] on the measles-rubella (MR) vaccination.

The communities, such as, Halal Corner, Komunitas Tanya ASI [the Questioning Breast Feeding Community], and Komunitas Thinker Parents [the Thinker Parents Community], came to MUI office on Tuesday (28 August).

[It was reported earlier that the Indonesian Ministry of Health had stated that those including the measles-rubella (MR) vaccine with no Halal certificates (from MUI) did not always mean that they are haram (prohibited).]

According to the representative of Halal Corner, Aisha Maharani, there are two topics discussed in the meeting, namely, on MUI's fatwa and on KIPI (the effects after the immunization).

MUI's fatwa No 33/2018 dated on 20 August 2018 says that it is haram (prohibited) to use MR (Measles Rubella) vaccine produced by SII (Serum Institute of India) because of its containing pork substances. However, the fatwa also says that in time of *dharurat syar'iyah* (in trouble or emergency) and provided that there is no dangerous effects and while there has no halal (permitted) vaccine been available yet, then, it is mubah (allowed) to use it.

In the meantime, the other communities admitted that they supported the fatwa, but they complained about the many different interpretation of the fatwa found and spread up and carried on media including the effects of the vaccination programmes within the societies.

According to the General Secretary of MUI Fatwa Commission, cleric Ni'am, the fatwa consist of two items. First, it deals with the product, namely, the MR (Measles Rubella) vaccine produced by SII which contains both human and pork substances. It is obvious that the product is haram (prohibited).

Secondly it is concerned with the application and using the vaccine. According to MUI, it is mubah (allowed) but it does not necessarily means that it is obliged to use it.

In the meantime, the vice-General Secretary of MUI Fatwa Commission, cleric Amirsyah Tambunan, said, that his institution appreciated the steps made by the Islamic communities to come and make inquiries about the fatwa.

Highlighting cleric Ni'am's clarification, he underlined that the MR (Measles Rubella) vaccine produced by SII was haram (prohibited) and najis (unclean).

He further explained, however, that the so-called immunization using the very vaccine could be categorized as being in time of *dlarurat syar'iyah* (in trouble or emergency). He also mentioned about the data, showing the significant numbers of those suffering from measles [in Papua and other remote areas in the country].

Source: MJ/MR, [kiblat/2018/08/29/fatwa-vaksin-mr-tuai-pro-kontra-mui-sampaikan-klarifikasi/](#), "Fatwa Vaksin MR Tuai Pro-Kontra, MUI Sampaikan Klarifikasi (MUI's clarification of its fatwa on measles-rubella vaccination)", in Indonesian, 29 August 18.

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