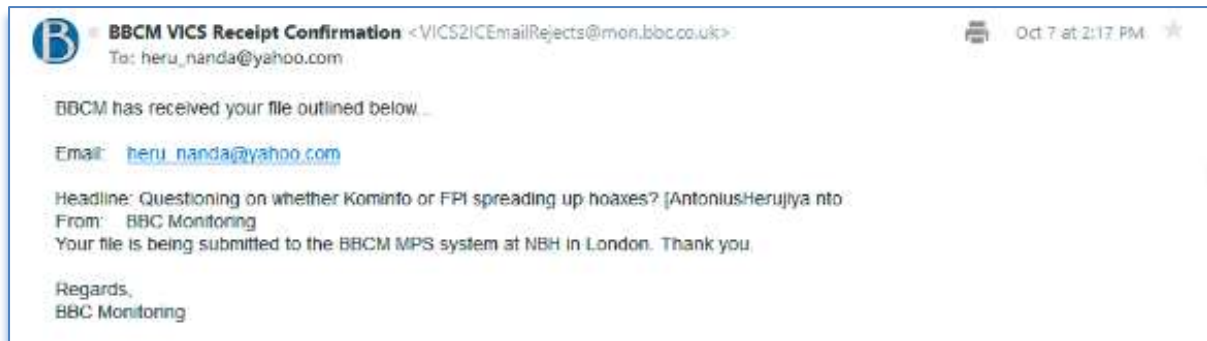


Questioning on whether Kominfo or FPI Spreading up Hoaxes?



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH03_031018]

One of the recent hoaxes strongly criticized by Kominfo or the Indonesian Communications and Information Ministry is that spread up by the (hard-line) Defenders of Islam Front (FPI).

According to the Ministry, there are many fake photographs carried on their reports on their being in Sulawesi as soon as the earthquakes and tsunami took place.

During an interview with CNN Indonesia on Tuesday (2 October), Kominfo spokesperson, Ferdinandus Setu said that FPI media carried a report on their actions in Sulawesi showing photographs of their actions in the past land sliding of Tegal Panjang, Sukabumi, West Java. They also carried and spread up the photographs of the 2004 tsunami in Aceh.

Not only did the Front wrongly reported that the high water dam of Bili-Bili in Gowa, Sulawesi, was badly damaged due to the earthquakes, but they also said that the mayor of the city of Palu, Hidayat, was killed.

Mentioning other hoaxes spread up by FPI, Ferdinandus pointed out about their prediction that the next earthquakes to take place in Sulawesi would be on Tuesday (2 October); they reported that the Indonesian air force would carry the members of families of the earthquake victims from Makassar to Palu.

He also said that his office demanded the people not too easily believe in the information spread up by irresponsible sources.

In the meantime FPI spokesperson, cleric Slamet Ma'arif, denied such accusations. The cleric said Friday (on 28 September) that in Indonesian Twitter social media, there were information circulating that Lembaga Informasi Front or FPI Information Institute, @Lembaga dan Intelijen FPI [@FPI Intelligence and institution], and @Intel_FPI have helped providing the people with reports on FPI's participating in conducting humanitarian aids to the victims in Palu.

According to the cleric, all those reports are with a reference from <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20181002120756-20-334935/kominfo-sebut-foto-gerak-cepat-fpi-bantu-gempa-palu-hoaks> and a note explaining that the title of the reference had been changed to avoid misunderstanding.

He also demanded that Kominfo should not worry about FPI, adding that they do not need to be panicky and not to carry the actions conducted by FPI on their media. FPI would only search for the blessing of Allah.

Source: Robi, voa-islam/read/politik-indonesia/2018/10/03/60381/kominfo-atau-fpi-yang-hoax/#sthash.d5wp1LpD.dpbs, "Kominfo atau FPI yang Hoax? (Questioning on whether Kominfo or FPI spreading up hoaxes?)", in Indonesian, 03 Oct 18.

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